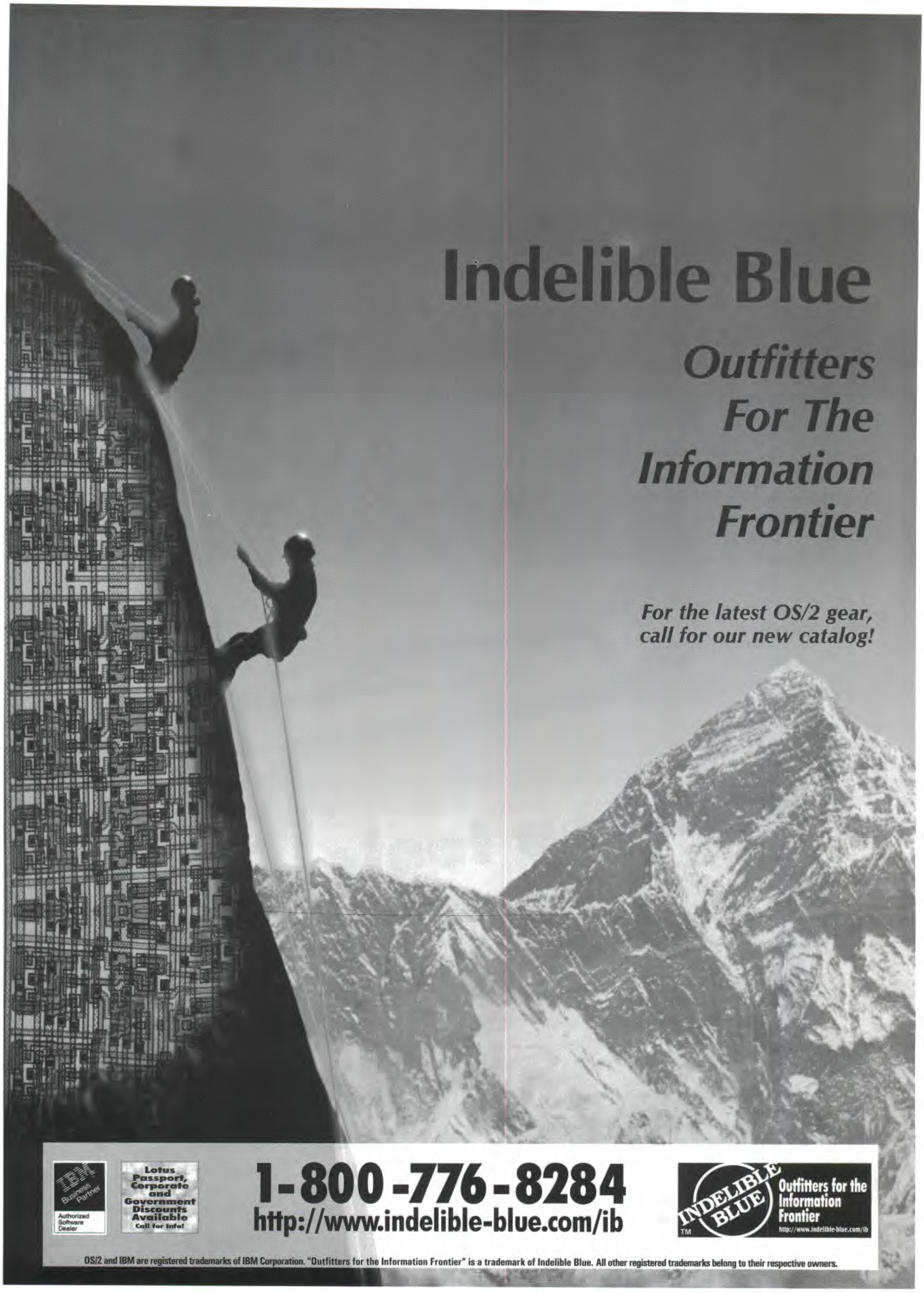
February 1998
Vol 5 No 2

extended attributes

Phoenix OS/2 Society

The magazine of the OS/2 community

$2.95 US ($3.50 Canada)


Indelible Blue
Outfitters For The Information Frontier
For the latest OS/2 gear, call for our new catalog!
IBM Business Partner
Authorized Software Dealer
Lotus Passport, Corporate and Government Discounts Available
Call for Info!
1-800-776-8284
http://www.indelible-blue.com/ib
INDELIBLE BLUE
TM
Outfitters for the Information Frontier
http://www.indelible-blue.com/ib
OS/2 and IBM are registered trademarks of IBM Corporation. "Outfitters for the Information Frontier" is a trademark of Indelible Blue. All other registered trademarks belong to their respective owners.

keyphrases

In this issue

Departments

2 **Tools for your desktop**

This issue is chock full of utilities to enhance OS/2!

3 **Doing it in public**

Esther explains a software development rule that's being broken across the computer industry.

6 **Win32 project**

Several grass roots projects are in progress to enhance OS/2.

16 **Letters**

Our members express their views on the industry.

18 **Judgement of errors**

Marilyn explains the basic error messages that OS/2 will emit. Learn about these before they stump you!

Software

System enhancements

In this issue, we review several tools that improve your OS/2 system:

4 **Desktop Wizard**

8 **Ctrl-Alt-Del Commander**

10 **Chorus/2: sing or not?**

22 **Object Desktop Pro hands-on**

11 **First labeling program for OS/2**

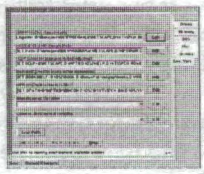
Smack! for OS/2 is released.

12 **J Street Mailer announced**

Innoval announces new online tools.

24 **New and improved**

An astounding collection of new software has been released in the last month. Take a look at what's available!



Society news

12 **Column lite**

Dick Krueger thinks he has nothing to say. Really. Nothing. He means it.

13 **Show me the money (management)**

The February general meeting features Bruce Landeck from Spitfire, showing InCharge!

14 **Coming events, meeting locations, and membership**

Scheduled meetings and events, maps, directions, and the membership application.

15 **SIG news**

Find out what's happening at the special interest groups.

15 **Society Web site moves**

We have some electronic changes going on. You'll want to know about them!

extended attributes

extended attributes is the award winning monthly magazine of the Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc.

This issue of *extended attributes* was produced using OS/2, DeScribe 5.0, Lotus Word Pro, FrameMaker 5.1.1, Enhanced Editor 6.03, TrueSpectra Photo>Graphics, and Impos/2. Camera ready images were printed on an IBM Lexmark 4039 10R laser printer at 600 dpi. Printing was done by Adcraft Printing, Inc, Phoenix, AZ.

Deadline for article submissions is the 5th of the month prior to issue. Send articles to editor@possi.org or the Society's mailing address. Email reviews to Craig Greenwood (reviews@possi.org). Email SIG news to Ernie Fisch (see next page).

For change of address, send an email to editor@possi.org or mail the form in the center of the magazine to the Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc. *extended attributes* is mailed at bulk rate—the US Post Office will not forward!

Approximate circulation of this issue: 650.

Copyright © 1998 by the Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc.

.comment

Tools for your desktop

by Bill Schindler, editor-in-chief

We're focusing on desktop utilities this month.

The Workplace Shell (OS/2's desktop) is a powerful environment. But several things about it beg for improvement. Enter perhaps the most powerful feature of the Workplace Shell: it can be easily extended. Thus a variety of desktop utilities have appeared over the years. So many, in fact, that it's pleasantly hard to choose which one you might like the best.

Desktop utilities like Object Desktop, Desktop Wizard (formerly known as NFNF), and XIT become part of the way you use OS/2. They often add both flash and functionality to the Workplace Shell. And most of them have a lot of depth. So, for the most part, our reviewers are day-to-day users of the utilities that they're writing about.

Our reviews editor, Craig Greenwood, did a fantastic job rounding up all these reviews. And the membership of the Society did an astounding job of responding with reviews of their favorite desktop utilities.

As a result, this issue is almost cover-to-cover reviews. In the history of the magazine, we've never had so many reviews in one issue.

We hope these reviews help you choose the best desktop utility for your needs!

Coming up

Next month, we'll have another "blockbuster" review issue, focusing on backup software.

We're also planning on further review-heavy issues later in the year. We'll be looking at topics like graphics programs and Internet tools.

Rumors of my death...

I keep hearing "OS/2 is dead" from a variety of sources. However, events like Warpstock, the expanding membership of the Society, and the continuous stream of new OS/2 software argue otherwise.

For something that's dead, OS/2 is sure lively!

I'll tell you what. The next time someone begins ranting at you that you're using a dead operating system, wave this copy of *extended attributes* under their nose. Tell them that this magazine is full of announcements for new and updated OS/2 software. And that there's more every month.

Or, perhaps better still, read them Dr Allie Martin's letter in this issue. Dr Martin is a new OS/2 user who looked at the alternatives and chose OS/2.

To paraphrase an old quote, I believe that the rumors of OS/2 Warp's death are premature.

Warp lives!

Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc

The Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc (POSSI) is an organization of computer users with an interest in IBM's OS/2 operating system.

Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc.
5515 N 7th St, Ste 5-133
Phoenix, AZ 85014-2585
Voice mail: 602-949-4341
Web: http://www.possi.org

President		
	Dick Krueger	president@possi.org
Vice-president		
	Lee Baldwin	lbaldwin@primenet.com
Secretary		
	Marilyn Pizzo	mpizzo@ibm.net
Treasurer		
	Stan Hall	srhall@ibm.net
Program chair		
	Esther Schindler	esther@bitranch.com
Board member at large		
	Sam MacDonald	samemac@ibm.net
Membership officer		
	Evelyn Hitch	hitch@ibm.net

extended attributes

Editor		
	Bill Schindler	editor@possi.org
Assistant editors		
	Susan Malling	susan@perfectniche.com
	Esther Schindler	esther@bitranch.com
Reviews editor		
	Craig Greenwood	reviews@possi.org
SIG news editor		
	Ernie Fisch	ernfisch@indirect.com
Contributing editors		
	Craig Greenwood	craig@possi.org
	Marilyn Pizzo	mpizzo@ibm.net
	Joel Frey	jomafraz@primenet.com
	Esther Schindler	esther@bitranch.com
Cartoonist		
	Ron Boe	ronsueboe@sprintmail.com
Advertising manager		
	Frank Pizzo	fpizzo@primenet.com

Advertisers: Contact Frank Pizzo for an advertising rate sheet, insertion order, and information on advertising in *extended attributes*.

.on the bitstream

Doing it in public

by Esther Schindler

Esther Schindler is program chair of the Phoenix OS/2 Society. In real life, she's Technology Editor for ZD's *Sm@rt Reseller* magazine. You can reach her at esther@bitranch.com.

In March 1995, Microsoft brought its "Chicago" road show to Phoenix, to demonstrate to the Phoenix PC Users Group the product we later knew as Windows 95. In my oh-so-shy manner, when the presentation was over, I was first up at the Q&A microphone.

If I recall correctly, I asked the Microsoft representative, "You've shown us Chicago as if everything in it was new and innovative. But most of us here know that nearly every feature you showed is in OS/2, and has been in OS/2 since at least version 2.0. OS/2 is now at 2.1, and it will probably be at 2.2 by the time you ship Chicago. How do you feel that you can possibly compete with a product that's already ahead of yours?"

Well, nobody said that I ask easy questions.

The Microsoft representative did something extremely wise: he sidestepped the issue I raised, and answered a different question. He replied by pointing out that OS/2 was "42% 16-bit code," naturally implying that Chicago would be 100% 32-bit, and of course that this somehow mattered. I was left in the position of arguing about the 32-bit percentage of OS/2 2.1 (which was better than the Microsoft rep painted it, I'm told—he'd included the stupid 16-bit applets) or saying that 32-bitness didn't matter.

But, more importantly in the long run: Windows 95 shipped at about 30% 16-bit code.

What happened? After making such a big deal over "full 32 bit" promises, why did Microsoft miss the target?

The law of threes

Permit me to change subjects for a moment. I promise to come back to it in a moment.

Some years ago, Bill served as a consultant at Wang Computers, helping to write a top-of-the-line COBOL compiler. He worked with one of the best compiler gurus in the business, Mike McKernan, who had gotten his start as a programmer by dropping out of high school in the early 60s. During the course of the project, Mike pointed out one of the axioms of software development: *All good code takes three tries.*

Remember that every program exists to solve a problem. The first time you write a program, Mike pointed out, you just want to see if your idea will work. Once you know that the basic idea is a good one, you throw out the first effort because, although it works (sort of), it's a rat's nest of code. You try it again to see how to make it better, and it improves but it's still not great. Then you realize how it should *really* work and you throw your second try away, too. Finally, you write the elegant software you had in mind in the first place.

If you've ever written code, I'm quite sure that you're nodding in agreement. This rule holds true whether you're writing a tiny utility or a massive COBOL compiler (which, it should be mentioned, turned out blazingly fast code).

Ideally, the programmer has the opportunity to throw away the first two versions before the world sees them, to invest his time in the *research* half of the Research and Development cycle. When he can't, the computer industry learns the adage that you can't trust any software application until it reaches version 3.

That's why truly innovative software, from 1-2-3 1A to Netscape, could be so impressive; nobody was joggling the programmer's elbow.

I'm sure you've seen the quote that says, "If we knew what we were doing, we wouldn't call it research!" True innovation requires time. It requires risk, and mistakes are inevitable. Just like trying to find a path through a maze, a programmer has to "try something" to see if it works. When it doesn't work, she has to tear out the attempt and try a different path. Eventually, the new idea works—and the world is changed for the better. That's the nature of research; if you aren't willing to be wrong, you aren't going to have the opportunity to be *right.*

R&D in public

In business history, R&D departments were composed of the best and brightest, who were (figuratively) locked in a room by themselves and told, "Come out when you find something cool." The researchers were free to make mistakes behind closed doors, and they could throw out all the trash they liked... as long as they kept emitting cool things every so often.

Over time, the computer industry has changed those rules. No longer can the researchers be left to their own devices. The programmer can choose one wrong path, back up and try another... but the marketing department publicly announced back when the programmers were first designing the product that it will ship on August 25—and it has to be ready.

If you were trying to achieve a technical goal but you didn't have time to do it right, what would you do? I don't have any inside knowledge on the development of Windows 95, but I know that if I were in that position, I'd say, "Let's just plug in the Windows 3.1 code for this module. At least we know that works. Sort of."

Perhaps it seems like I'm picking on Microsoft, but they were just the biggest victim of the creeping expectation. This problem affects every computer hardware and software company. Developers are forced to do their R&D in public; they can no longer afford to be wrong, which means that they can no longer afford to take chances. And that means that they can no longer indulge in true, honest, innovative research.

What do you think the effect will be?

.review

Desktop Wizard, Version 1.41

by Stephen G. Mican

Desktop Wizard, formerly known as New File New Folder, is a wonderful 32-bit Workplace Shell enhancement that I have been using for almost two years. I have found it to be an almost indispensable program with imperceptible overhead, and I really miss it when I use an OS/2 machine that does not have it.

At first glance, there is nothing much different about the desktop after installing Desktop Wizard. However, with a right click of the pointing device on the desktop, new selections appear on the pop-up menu. My favorite selection starts a command line session, either windowed or full screen, and either OS/2 or DOS. Other selections include one for creating a new object, another for displaying a file manager, and still another for closing, hiding or showing all open folders on the desktop. There is also a selection for disabling or enabling Desktop Wizard.

When you open a folder, such as Drive C, to display a window, the window title bar includes a lot more information. The total number of files within C are shown, the total number of bytes used by the files are indicated, and the total number of directories within C are also displayed. A right click of the pointing device brings up a pop-up menu that has the command line, new object and file manager selections described above, as well as a selection for "Tree Stats" and another for "Folder Stats."

Tree Stats shows the total number of folders, the total number of files and the total number of bytes used in the entire open folder. Folder Stats shows the total number of folders, the total number of files and the total number of bytes used in any highlighted folder within the open folder window. In the case of the open Drive C window, of course, I have been describing an open window with a tree view. Opening another folder within this window to bring up an icon view or a details view offers even more information.

If, for example, I open the DWIZ folder in the Drive C window, my system is configured to bring up a details window. Whether it be a details window or an icon window, a right click of the pointing device on any file will bring up a pop-up menu that has even more selections. In addition to the command line session selections, there are others for unzipping the selected file, for adding the selected file to a ZIP file, for unpacking the selected file, for making a disk image of the selected file and for showing the file "Stats."

File statistics

I particularly like the file Stats window. This is a pop-up window that shows the complete path and file name, all of the information displayed for the file in the details view, and file attribute pushbuttons with the current values of A, H, R, and S on them.

These attribute pushbuttons are really wonderful. For instance, if the selected file has become read-only, right clicking on the file, selecting Stats, and pushing the R attribute button removes the read-only attribute. The value on the pushbutton then changes from R+ to R-. This can be a real time saver.

Another feature I like in Desktop Wizard is the drag-drop auto-prompt dialog box. Without Desktop Wizard, I can never keep track of whether I am moving, copying, or creating a shadow of an object that I am trying to drag and drop. More often than not, I think that I am dragging and dropping a shadow when I actually wind up moving the real object. Desktop Wizard solved this problem for me with the drag-drop auto-prompt dialog box. It's a popup window that appears after any drag-drop operation is completed; the push button selections allow you to move, copy, create a shadow, or cancel the operation. I suppose that this is an extra step if you really know what you are doing when you drag-and-drop things. I, however, do not.

By the way, most of the features described above can be selectively enabled or disabled. When Desktop Wizard is installed, two extra tabbed sections, "DW Files" and "DW Folders," are added to the Desktop Settings Notebook. The selections on each of the several pages of these two sections allow Desktop Wizard to be highly customized.

In fact, parts of Desktop Wizard are available separately, such as ZipZap, the Zip/Unzip functionality in Desktop Wizard, CmdHere, the command line functionality of Desktop Wizard, Prompt, the drag and drop prompt functionality in Desktop Wizard, and Stats, the file/folder/tree statistics functionality in Desktop Wizard. I understand that the separate products are actually improved and have more features than their counterparts in Desktop Wizard.

Desktop Wizard comes with two additional programs that are pretty nifty. One is the Little Digital Talking Clock. This is a nice addition to the desktop that provides a desktop display of time or time and date, and the time is spoken at preselected intervals using a set of WAV files. It works very well, and you can create your own WAV files if you wish to have it speak with your voice.

I use the second program that comes with Desktop Wizard very frequently. It is called the ClipBoard Text Utility, and it lets you directly print or create a file from information copied into the OS/2 clipboard. It is basically a clipboard viewer that allows you to add text to the clipboard, create a file and print.

I highly recommend Desktop Wizard.

Desktop Wizard
$30.00 downloaded from
www.coax.net/people
/grobin
$35.00 with disk.

Stephen G. Mican is a Senior Patent Attorney at Amoco Corporation in Chicago, Illinois. He has been practicing law for sixteen years. Prior to the practice of law, he was an electrical engineer for almost ten years. He has used OS/2 exclusively at home and at the office since early 1995.

trivial

Test your computer trivia knowledge

compiled by Esther Schindler

For a number of years, top executives at computer companies have competed in a trivia contest called the Computer Bowl. In cleaning up my files, I found the list of questions asked at the Computer Bowl V, where the winning team was composed of Jean Louis Gassee (Be, Inc), Jerry Kaplan (Go Corporation), Michael McConnell (SuperMac Corporated), Lisa Thorell (Dataquest), and Harry Saal (Network General Corporation).

We don't have room to print all sixty questions—but see how well you do with the questions shown below! (Answers are on page 23.)

1. In 1978, Ward Christensen and Randy Seuss created a computer first in the city of Chicago. What computer-based innovation did they create?

9. What is the exact number of bytes in a megabyte?

10. A widely used and distributed campus information service originated at the University of Minnesota. The system was named after the University of Minnesota mascot. What is it called?

17. Steve Jobs has a daughter whose name is the same as that of a computer. What is her name?

21. In 1985, several Japanese computer companies hoped to introduce computers into the U.S. market using a new operating system that was written for them by Microsoft. What was the name of that operating system?

26. The adventure game King's Quest was originally written for a particular computer. The game outlived the computer. For what computer was King's Quest originally written?

29. In 1983, the Heath Company marketed a robot kit. What was the name of the Heath robot kit?

31. One of the earliest computers was the Altair, manufactured by MITS. What did the letters M-I-T-S stand for?

45. The Commodore VIC-20 was introduced in 1981. How many columns of text were displayed on the VIC-20 screen in the default mode? Was it 18, 22, 40, or 80?

50. If you wanted to expand the memory on the original IBM PC, how much memory could you fit onto the motherboard?

Database Management for C/C++ & REXX

dbfLIB for C and C++ Development

- Supports DBF, DBT, FPT, NDX and NTX file formats.
- Accesses data safely in multithreaded programs.
- Provides indexing, memo fields, network support and soundex searching.
- Runs on OS/2, Windows, Windows 95, Windows NT and MS-DOS.
- Handles IBM, Microsoft, Borland and Watcom compilers.

dbfREXX for REXX Development

- Supports DBF, DBT, FPT, NDX and NTX file formats.
- Accesses data fields directly with stem variables.
- Provides indexing, memo fields, network support and soundex searching.
- Supports VX-REXX, VisPro REXX and the built-in REXX interpreter.

dSOFT Development Inc.
281-537-0318 www.dsoftusa.com

© Copyright 1997 Southern California OS/2 User Group. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Take control of your fonts!
with
FontFolder
The OS/2 Font Manager
Install ◆ Uninstall ◆ Browse ◆ Print
Use fonts directly from CDROMs
"Every font management function I could possibly use" - OS/2 Mag.
Available from BMT Micro, Indelible Blue and other OS/2 sources
PVsoft www.pvsoft.com ccullum@ibm.net

.two warped

Win32 project

by Judy McDermott

The Win32-OS/2 project is a collection of tools and DLL's that allow an end-user to convert a Win32 program (i.e. Windows 95 or Windows NT) into a native OS/2 program, and then run that program under OS/2—without needing Windows or Win-OS/2 support installed. Peter Fitzsimmons and Timur Tabi were guest speakers at the November VOICE IRC bi-monthly meeting. There were more than 70 attendees present for the discussion.

Peter's role is API utilities, the development environment, and providing help with pe2lx, user32, and kernel32. Timur maintains the homepage at `www.io.com/~timur/win32os2.html`. Timur's presentation at Warpstock '97 about the Win32-OS/2 project was standing room only.

Several people are contributing their time and efforts to the project, which is strictly volunteer.

Mission

Q: You mentioned that source code will not be released. Is it a definite "no," and what are the reasons please?

PF: In the beginning, it was decided that the best thing for all OS/2 users was to keep large companies using OS/2. So the target is applications that will keep large companies from switching from OS/2 to Windows NT, such as word processors, presentation programs, and spreadsheets. It has also been my experience that, in general, large companies do not use freeware or shareware, and they don't like things that "hackers have the source code to." So the best thing that could happen (for OS/2) is for us to get this thing to work, present it to IBM, and have them bless it and release it.

Q: ...and if IBM doesn't bless and release it?

PF: Then I suspect we will have to set up some sort of body to sell it, since large companies insist on paying for software so they get support. You "end users" will get it, don't worry.

Progress

Sander van Leeuwen originated the project in June of 1997.

TT: Right now we're in a code frenzy stage. The number of applications we can convert is so small that we haven't tried to make a list. We have not put into place a procedure where we can test several applications. Until we do, I hesitate to provide a list.

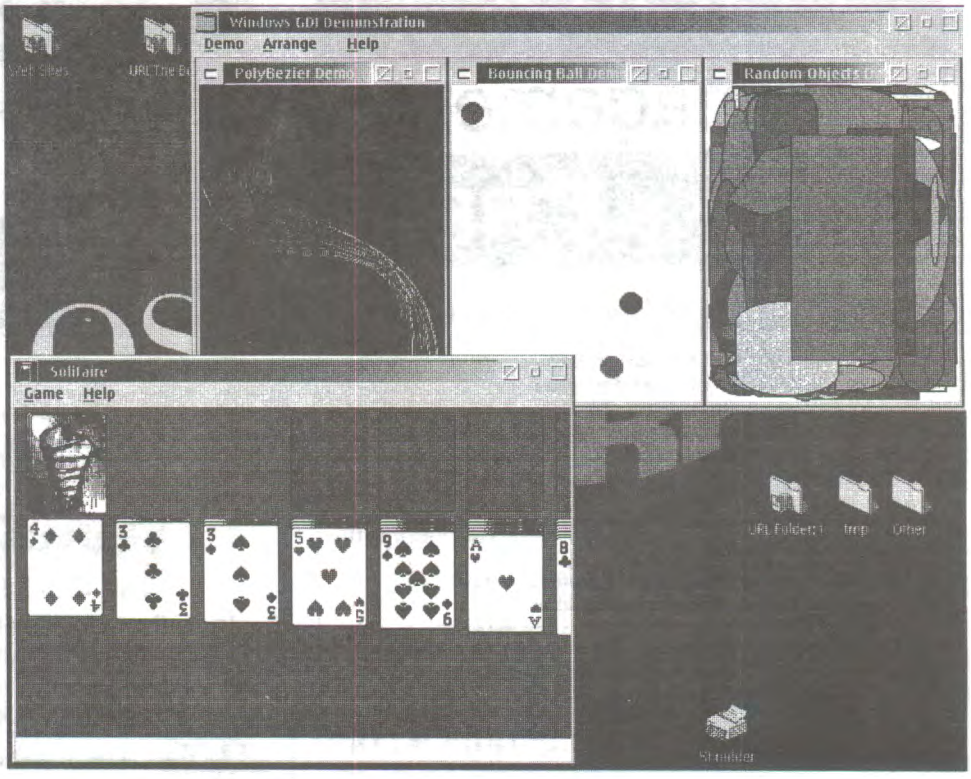
PF: Some of the applications that we are working on come with Windows NT 4.0, such as Solitaire, Freecell, and Notepad. We also have a few non-console command line applications working.

The converter application is intended to be distributed as free software, unless IBM decides to pick it up and incorporate it into OS/2; then it wouldn't be considered free. An open beta test is planned, but due to the early development stage of the converter, a release date was not given. So check the homepage often for updates.

Judy's upgrade

Santa was good to me this year, so I must have been good. Either that, or Santa figured that providing me with the resources to upgrade my system will keep me out of his beard! The upgrade was a total success, and I am extremely happy with my choice of hardware so I thought I would share this information.

I did a lot of research on motherboards, and finally selected the FIC PA-2007 with 1MB onboard Pipeline Burst Level II direct-mapped write-back cache. Installation went very smoothly. The manual was very informative and included an addendum with the settings for the AMD-



K6 266 and 300 MHz CPUs which haven't even hit the market yet. Supports SIMMs, EDO DRAM and SDRAM; ISA and PCI expansion slots; Award BIOS plus a lot more. I highly recommend this motherboard.

I went with 64MB SDRAM, two 32MBs. The motherboard has two DIMM sockets and, unlike SIMMs, one SDRAM module can be used alone. I could have just gone with the one 64MB but the two 32's were much less expensive—and I still had more hardware to buy!

The AMD K6 233 MHz is a screamer! I couldn't be happier. The old system used a Cyrix 5x86 120 Mhz CPU. I know that a lot of people don't hold benchmark results very highly, but just for my own comparison of the two systems I was very impressed. In some areas the results more than tripled.

So, if you're is looking for Pentium speed and you like to save money, then you must check this out. My system is now truly at Warp *SPEED.*

Let it go...

Are you hanging on to Windows because you haven't been able to find that *one* comparable application in native OS/2? *The OS/2 Alternative* site, at `www.tstonramp.com/~freiheit/os2apps.shtml` is an excellent place to start searching for that replacement. Don Eitner has done an excellent job with this project and updates the information frequently. He currently has four hundred and fifty two, yes 452, OS/2 alternative programs listed! Okay, I might be off by one or two, but that was a lot of counting!

Tidbits

- **Timothy F. Sipples**, IBM Network Computing Software in Chicago, will be the guest speaker at the February 18, 1998 IRC VOICE meeting. Tim will discuss OS/2 networking. The meeting will begin at 8:00pm EST, 0100 GMT. Visit `www.os2voice.org` for full details.
- **Calling all programmers!** OS/2 NetL@bs, `www.netlabs.org`, is seeking developers to assist with programming, porting OS/2 software. Currently they are working on a port of Glint/2. Glint is a Linux application that is comparable to Photoshop. The homepage offers OS/2 users the opportunity to provide input as to the programs they would like ported or developed. Adrian Gschwend, `ktk@netlabs.org`, is open to suggestions and would appreciate your input.

LOOK!

Increase your productivity with these two great products from AVIAR!

1. "Object REXX by Example©"

The **book** that teaches you **Object REXX** the easiest way possible - by example.

By: Gwen L. Veneskey
Will Trosky
John J. Urbaniak

Check out
http://www.oops-web.com/orxbyex/
for a Table of Contents

2. "V Trex"

Speech-activated, natural-language queries into your DB2/2 Databases.

"Information at your fingertips?"
Been there, done that. Feh!

INFORMATION. . . *at your COMMAND!*

Check out
http://www.oops-web.com/vtrex/
for some screen shots

Available from INDELIBLE BLUE or direct from AVIAR

Web: http://www.indelible-blue.com/ *Telephone: 1 800-776-8284*
Web: http://www.oops-web.com *Telephone: 1 412-488-9730*

Aviar *software that soars!*

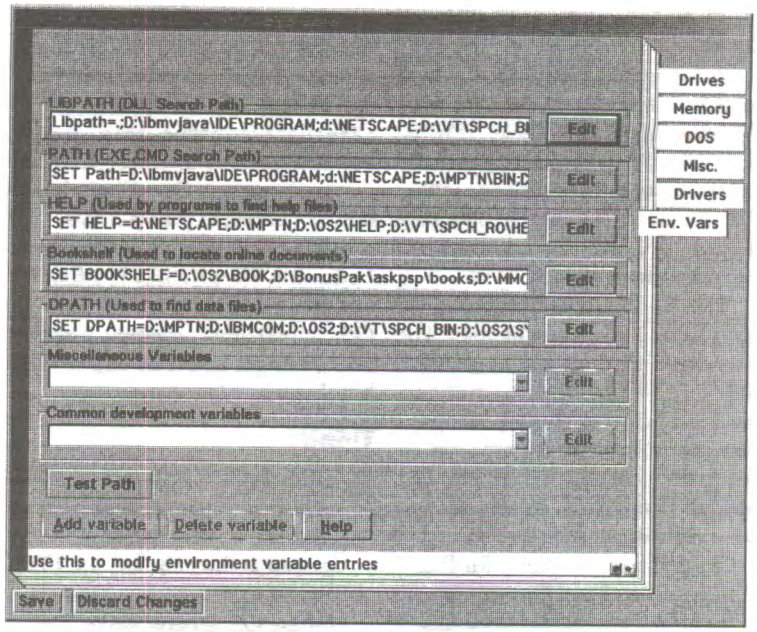
219 Fingal Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15211

.review

Ctrl-Alt-Del Commander

by Rick Blankenbaker

Perez Computing Systems' Ctrl-Alt-Del Commander (CAD Commander), recently upgraded to version 2.5, is among the applications that are easy to overlook in the quest to build a complete computing solution. It lacks much of the flash and visual excitement of a word processor, graphics application, or even a desktop utility such as XIT or NPSWPS. However, the additional functionality that it provides can prove to be invaluable to a productive desktop.



Perez Computing Services
4725 Monte Vista Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
www.pcs-soft.com
pcs@pcs-soft.com
360-428-5025

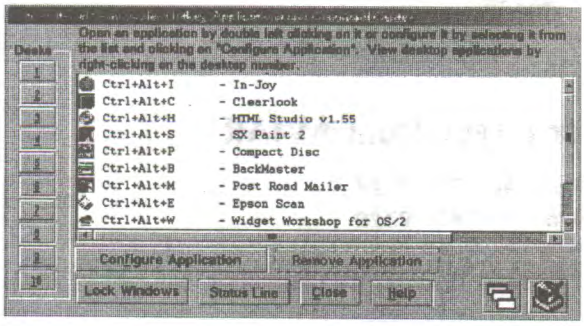
Rick Blankenbaker is a test engineer for Motorola. He lives with his wife and six children near Harvard, Illinois. He has used OS/2 since 1994 and has been a POSSI member since April, 1997.

CAD Commander's main claim to fame is its ability to kill an errant application that has locked up OS/2's synchronous input queue (SIQ). Although not generally a common occurrence, most OS/2 users have probably experienced such a system hang at one time or another. In such a situation, the normal means of terminating an application via the window list or Warp Center is futile; a reboot is usually required. With CAD Commander, recovering from such a predicament is quite easily accomplished. CAD Commander has a multitude of additional functions as well, making it a very versatile addition to the OS/2 desktop.

Operation and features

CAD Commander installed on my system without any problems, leaving the CAD Commander icon on the desktop, along with a folder containing objects for the CAD Commander FAQ, Readme, User's Guide, Control Panel, Status Line, and a URL for the Perez Computing Systems Web site.

The entire install requires slightly over 2 MB of hard disk space and a single reboot due to changes made to CONFIG.SYS. CAD Commander icon can be hidden also (it isn't really required, other than to verify that the program is active); this will require an additional reboot.



CAD Commander is very simple to operate. Pressing the Ctrl-Alt-Del key combination will, instead of rebooting OS/2, bring up a full screen CAD Commander session. One of two formats may be chosen as the default view: either the basic "Easy Information Window" or the more extensive "Advanced Display." From either window, it is possible to kill applications, view comprehensive process and thread info, switch priorities of running applications, switch to another application, or get help. Other options allow you to shut down OS/2, restart the Workplace Shell, or do just a file system shutdown.

Additionally, there are two other methods of invoking CAD Commander's abilities. The first is via the familiar command line. Applications may be killed, priorities modified, threads viewed, or OS/2 rebooted. Also, a function is included to delete directories. These are very useful tools to have available if, say, the OS/2 system is being remotely accessed. The other method is a "blind" approach, useful when the display itself is not responding. In this instance, the number of times that the Ctrl-Alt-Del key combo is successively pressed will determine the action taken. Three times will terminate the foreground application; five times will restart the Workplace Shell; ten times will reboot OS/2. These numbers may be easily modified in the Control Panel. The many recovery tools available should cover just about any contingency an OS/2 user could run into.

By the way, if it's installed on OS/2 Warp 4 or OS/2 Warp 3 with Fixpack 17 installed, CAD Commander will take advantage of the enhanced program termination capability available with these systems.

Enhanced features

I mentioned earlier that CAD Commander is much more than a remedy to the SIQ problem. Among the additional features are the CAD Commander Enhanced Window List and the Hotkey Application and Command Center.

The Enhanced Window List allows access to many of the features of the full-screen session directly from the desktop. It is accessible through a hotkey, status

line, via a button in the Hotkey Application/Command Center or by moving the cursor to the lower right corner of the screen.

The Hotkey Application/Command Center supplies ten virtual desktops and allows definition of hotkey combinations for user applications. For instance, you could use Ctrl-Alt-W to launch a favorite word processor. Key combinations already defined for use by CAD Commander include the ten virtual desktops, the Enhanced Window List, and a handy units conversion calculator.

The Hotkey Application/Command Center offers numerous useful options to allow control of which applications open on which virtual desktops and, by right clicking on a desktop button, allows viewing a list of the applications running on that desktop—a very handy feature with ten desktops to keep tabs on! Switching from desktop to desktop is very quick—nearly instantaneous on my Cyrix PR200 system. The hotkey feature fully supports the Windows 95 system keys also. The Hotkey Application / Command Center is available via hotkey or by moving the cursor to the lower left corner of the screen.

Another useful feature is the Status Line. As its name implies, this application supplies the status of various parts of your system, including CPU usage, time, date, swap file size, drive info, COM port activity, a timer, alarms, process info, current desktop, and enhanced window list. I like the "enhanced shutdown" which lists running applications and offers the ability to switch to/close them prior to shutdown, as well as a reboot-after-shutdown selection. The status line also allows easy access to the virtual desktops, the conversion calculator, and any application assigned a hotkey. The Status Line sits unobtrusively at the bottom (or top) of the OS/2 desktop and is configurable via drag and drop colors and fonts. Configuration of the display elements themselves are via the CAD Commander Control Panel.

Another nice touch is the CONFIG.SYS editor, which displays the contents of the file in a logical notebook form, similar to some shareware applications. Editing is very simple, and a backup copy of CONFIG.SYS is saved upon program exit. One helpful feature is the ability to test LIBPATH entries for validity; this makes system tuning easier if you're trying to wring the last drop of performance from your system.

Yet another capability of CAD Commander is the DOS/Win Game Boost. This takes the form of an additional DOS setting available in the standard DOS Properties notebook. It serves to boost the session priority of the application, in theory increasing performance. On the few occasions I've had to try this, the DOS application did indeed seem somewhat "snappier," though I haven't tried to measure the difference. I suspect it would vary depending on the other applications running at the time.

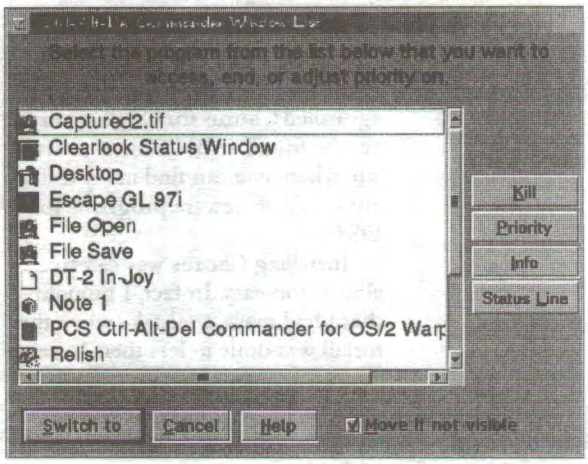
The alarm clock/scheduling capability of CAD Commander has been boosted considerably since version 2.0. Up to 30 events may be defined, and each may consist of an alarm, message, program launch, or any combination of these. Alarms may be one time only, or repeating.

And one last(!) benefit of CAD Commander is the availability of Japanese Warp support and Spanish language support in the full-screen session. This is a feature I haven't had the chance to try out (yet).

Problems

Given the large number of features contained in CAD Commander, it's expected that a few bugs might be present as well. Fortunately, those few that are present are well documented in the README file, and generally related to interoperability with other applications. Workarounds are described in each case.

On my fairly standard OS/2 Warp 4 system with Fixpak 1, I've had no problems (although I must admit I haven't used all the features constantly). Of course, no tool can



solve every problem and CAD Commander is no exception. Some types of system hangs are not recoverable short of rebooting. However, these have been very infrequent on my system.

I've been very happy with the performance of CAD Commander; I wouldn't do without it.

Support

While I have had no occasion to test the quality of the technical support for this product, Perez Computing Systems does offer several ways to obtain such support. Besides a web site, support is available via email, phone, fax, and BBS.

Ctrl-Alt-Del Commander v2.5 is still only $39.00. This is an excellent value for this kind of insurance against the occasional system lockup, not to mention the additional functionality it brings to the desktop. The upgrade to version 2.5 from 2.0 is free of charge. Perez Computing Services should have a demo of version 2.5 available on their Web site by the time you read this. I highly recommend giving it a try.

Chorus/2: sing or not?

by Daniel Goggia

I've been taking a look at several shareware applications which are bundled together in a software package called Chorus for OS/2. Chorus can be found at BMT Micro, a web site where you can find many different OS/2 shareware programs for OS/2.

Installing Chorus was carefree, almost too easy. In fact, I thought that I had made a mistake when the install was done in less then 15 seconds! But it was, and first thing I did was look at XIT, a program that I had heard about but never had seen or tried.

Daniel Goggia is also known as Danny=G. He's an active member of Team OS/2 and POSSI, and editor of the Team Brief.

XIT

Starting XIT brought up a little square box, with five buttons on it. The buttons are Suspend, Terminate, Help, Options, and About.

Under options you select title bar button options: whether they are enabled, if left or right mouse buttons should have priority, plus what action will be taken. This was odd to me, until I began opening folders on my desktop. Lo and behold, every folder and application that was opened, including my EPM editor, now had new buttons to the left and right of the top main menu bar.

One feature made me fall in love with this program; I would purchase the program just for this reason. In the second page of settings is the clock settings. At first I saw the clock appear at the lower left of my desktop, with time, seconds, and date. So what? I already had a clock on top of my task bar. But I played with the settings, and set the clock and other button functions to be on folders. Every window now has a clock with the current date and time, even the EPM editor.

The same new functions appeared on the main title bar of each program. With one click I can shut down a program or roll up the program to the title bar. This came in handy when I needed to see under a folder or program window.

Another well-thought-out feature is an exception list button. You have the ability to select any program that you do not want XIT to work with. For example, if you do not want it to be active on your QikBac program (because it already has a clock showing), you can write QikBac.exe in the exception list window, and XIT will not run with this program.

XIT alone would be a very good buy; it gives you a more powerful system and lets you be more productive. This product is from the makers of X-File, CodeSmith Products. Although I did not really care to use X-File, I would gladly pay the registration fee to keep XIT, as it enhances my system so much. In fact, I think OS/2 this functionality should have been built into OS/2 to begin with! It would give OS/2 that much more of a lead on its competitors as a power system.

On a 1-10 rating scale, I give this one a must have *ten*.

Matrix

I dragged myself away from XIT to look at some of the other features of this Chorus program, beginning with the game Matrix.

This game is very fun. You have to learn how the colors will give you points and how they to keep your opponent from getting points.

During this part of the review, my son came in... and, needless to say, this took up far too much time. In fact, he did so much better than I did that I had to cut short this part of the review. The best thing about Matrix is its options to change color and shapes. It's very fun, even when you lose to your son or to HAL, the computer.

With that said and done, I'll take my shame and just say the game is fun, fast, and colorful.

SwapMonitor

I must admit that I don't like to use monitors. I have even shut down the one that comes with OS/2 Warp 4. So, for me, looking at the SwapMonitor wasn't much of an option. However as swap monitors go, it has a lot of configurable features.

File Freedom

Another Chorus program in which I was interested was File Freedom. File Freedom is a file and disk management program with a lot of options to keep you busy, and it has a shallow learning curve.

If you like to play around with a new program before you read instructions, don't do it with this one! I did, and ended up spreading files to numerous unknown parts of my hard drive. I am still trying to find where I put some of them!

File Freedom is a fast and inexpensive uncluttered PM file management tool with a very easy to use interface. It is quick and efficient, and requires little setup time or hassle.

When it comes to zipping and unzipping files, FileFreedom falls short compared to some other file management programs, mostly because it lacks archive options settings. (One example of a file manager with far more options is Disk Jockey.)

File Freedom does the basic file operations such as copy, move, rename, delete, and changing attributes. Some of its features are found only in higher cost file managers, such as reading inside zip files. Here's a partial list of its features:

- Create directories "on the fly" with copy/move operations
- Delete subdirectories that contain files/directory trees
- Create desktop objects from program files with single keystroke
- Sliding windows
- Toolbar: vertical, horizontal, hide
- Dynamic pushbutton descriptions
- Pushbutton support for search tool
- Third-party viewer support
- Support for user-defined programs
- REXX support
- File filters
- Menu bar
- Dynamic display of total files and bytes selected, bytes free on source and destination, file count

- Integrated support for Zip and Unzip utilities
- Built in Zip viewer

I did have one notable problem. When opening a .JPG or .BMP file, and then attempting to close it using the XIT close, the picture would close and then send a error window which would result in closing the program. This would not happen when closing with the File menu close option, so I suspect it could be a problem with using XIT and File-Freedom together.

These features are very well implemented. With the price in mind, I would rate this file manager at 8. It lets you do most of what you need, and for $10 it's a very good tool.

Smalled editor

I get real touchy about my editors. In particular, I like EPM with all the whistles attached and my IPF editor. So checking out another editor is almost unfair. But with this in mind, let me give you my impressions of Smalled.

From the first, looking into the help files and then the "how to order file," I had a "thumbs down" feeling. The programmer used foul language in his reason for making it harder for the Smalled HTML Extensions registration codes to be changed. There's no reason for using this type of language. I still believe you catch more flies with honey than with vinegar.

Smalled reminded me a little of my EPM editor but with more of a 3D look to its tool buttons. Its features are very basic ones that most editors give today. Nothing special here; in fact, I found them lacking as better editors go, however you can order more for this editor.

I did like the Strip HTML options, which take out the HTML garbage from a file, making it a normal text file. It also adds HTML extensions, but not as fast as it strips them. You must know what you want and choose it from a window of options.

For a fast editor, with some added power, Smalled is really a very nice tool to have around. One could use it and feel very efficient. At a cost of about $18, it is a good buy. It gives the user good basic editor features (no spell checking), and the Strip HTML or add features.

I would give this editor a 6 on a 1-10 scale. If it gets the other features in the future, it should move up to an 8. But since my other editors give me more, and I am used to them, I will not keep Smalled installed.

Drag Text

Drag Text adds power to your mouse actions by enabling drag and drop to copy or move text. This can be within the same window, or from one window to another.

From my editor, I just highlight the text and drag it by pressing and holding my right mouse button. This saves me from going up to edit, clicking copy text, putting the i-beam cursor where I want to copy the text, then pressing paste.

You can also drag text to your desktop. With this feature installed on your system, you have a very powerful tool. But you can also assign exceptions to Drag Text, disabling it with programs you choose.

Drag Text is a simple yet wonderful tool to enhance the ability of OS/2 applications. Using Drag Text is very easy and I rate it an easy 10—well done!

Final say

In all, Chorus/2 (available from from BMT Micro or Indelible Blue for $49.00) is of great value. Most of the programs are very well done, though obviously my favorite is XIT. I would say that Chorus can sing!

press release

First labeling program for OS/2

Scottsdale-based Perfect Niche Software today announced the shipment of the first general purpose labeling program specifically for IBM's OS/2. *Smack!*, selling for $69.95 MSRP, uses desktop publishing-like functionality to produce a wide variety of labels, including those for mailings, diskettes, name badges, business cards, inserts, and dividers. Originally showcased at Warpstock '97, *Smack!* provides a comprehensive set of templates, flexible printing options, and easy-to-use data manipulation capabilities.

Smack! was designed from the ground up to be an OS/2 labeling program. It is WPS aware, multi-threaded, and REXX enabled. It fully supports drag-and-drop and includes such advanced features as shadowing labels, full rotation in one-degree increments of all objects including text, graphics and drawn objects, and unlimited undo and redo. Other features include merge-printing, import and export, sequential numbering, barcodes, and complete printing controls.

"*Smack!* brings together the company's labeling software experience and the OS/2 programming expertise of master developer Bill Schindler," said Robert Rosenwald, president and CEO of Perfect Niche Software, and founding member of the Phoenix OS/2 Society. "OS/2 users are very loyal, and *Smack!* takes full advantage of the power of our personal operating system of choice."

For more information contact Perfect Niche Software directly at 800-947-7155. Perfect Niche Software, 6962 E 1st Ave #103, Scottsdale, AZ 85251, 602-945-2001, fax 602-949-1707, email `sales@perfectniche.com`, or Web `www.perfectniche.com`.

.the president's corner

Column lite

by Dick Krueger

Here we are: A week past the deadline for article submissions and still no President's column. Nope. Nothing. Nada. So for this month only, folks, guess what? No President's column. That's right. You heard it here first. I'm not in the mood to write anything. Our esteemed editor failed to notify me in advance of the impending deadline. (I suppose he was too busy packing and unpacking boxes. Ha!) Of course, I was occupied with important matters (all right, I was playing with the new toys I got for Christmas) and completely missed out on the first two weeks of January. So, that's it, no column. What you're reading now doesn't really exist. It's just fluff intended to fill up valuable (valuable?) space in this magazine and make it look like you're getting more value for your membership dollar. Sort of like the bloated list of features you find in "mature" software products.

Are you using Megabloat OfficeSpace 98 for Windows? Does it use up 80% of that 6 gigabyte drive on your new Gatepost Sexium 9000 Workstation/Doorstop? Well, how many of the 785 new features that were added just after final beta (and before actual gold code production) do you think you'll ever use? Do you really need a function that automatically translates outgoing faxes into pig-latin to keep away prying eyes? I inkthay otnay.

The Windows world seems to be full of "mature" software that chews up hard drive space, chews up users' time trying to figure out how to accomplish simple tasks, and chews up the hard-earned cash of those who succumb to upgrade-itis. And another thing: The data file format in the new release is usually incompatible with the old, forcing you to take extra steps to save in the old format if you want to share files with others (unless you can get everybody to upgrade at the same time).

Personally, I'm a proponent of the KISS method. It's the rare feature that will entice me away from the tried and true. I'm four versions behind on CorelDraw, five or six behind on Quicken, and I'm still running Warp 4 without fix packs.

What does entice me away from the tried and true? Bug fixes (for bugs I've actually encountered), improved reliability, and improved speed. Fortunately, I think we in the OS/2 user community have had better service from software vendors in this regard than many in the Windows user community.

The true test of software maturity is not features. It's speed, reliability, and ease of use. That's my opinion, anyway. What do you think?

Oops, I seem to have lapsed into actually writing something resembling a column. Please forgive me. And now back to our regular space filler.

.press release

J Street Mailer announced

InnoVal Systems Solutions announced a Charter Users Group for J Street Mailer and a timetable for the product's beta program. J Street Mailer is one of the first comprehensive email programs and one of the first general user applications written completely in Java.

InnoVal unveiled the J Street Mailer at a meeting of the New York City PC Club's OS/2 SIG on January 14. Dan Porter, InnoVal's president, demonstrated the product and discussed the importance of Java for OS/2. "This has been the most exciting and ambitious project we have ever worked on," said Porter.

InnoVal is now accepting memberships in a J Street Mailer Charter User Group. Group members will receive access to any and all beta and preview releases of the J Street Mailer throughout a two to three-month product test cycle. At the conclusion of the beta program, charter group members will receive a license for the production "gold" code and a one-year upgrade subscription. The enrollment fee for the Charter Users Group is $40. See InnoVal's Web site at `www.innoval.com` for details on how to become a charter member.

The first beta release of J Street Mailer is scheduled for January 30, 1998. Beta releases will only be available to Charter Users Group members and journalists.

InnoVal will be inviting journalists from software trade publications and e-zines to try the beta software and participate in email discussions with beta testers. "It's unusual for a beta program to be completely open to journalists in this way," said Porter. "We are going to be very pro-active with the press. This is software for serious email and we plan to use it to demonstrate the full capabilities of Java for comprehensive and feature-rich applications."

"A significant presence of OS/2 users in the charter group is essential. OS/2 is rapidly becoming the best and most promising platform for Java," Porter stressed. "We believe that Java is not only important to the future of OS/2 but that OS/2 is important to the future of Java. We want to get this message out."

J Street Mailer requires Java 1.1.4 or later.

For additional information, please send an email to `jstreet@innoval.com` or `innoval@ibm.net`, write to InnoVal Systems Solutions at 600 Mamaroneck Avenue, Harrison, New York 10528, USA, or telephone InnoVal at 914-835-3838. InnoVal's home page may be found at `www.innoval.com`.

February meeting

Show me the money (management)

by Esther Schindler

Money management gets much more interesting when it's *your* money at stake.

As we approach tax-time, the subject gets almost fascinating. So we're particularly glad to be able to welcome Bruce Landeck, president of Spitfire Software, as guest speaker at the February general meeting. On Tuesday, February 10, Bruce will show us his company's financial management software for OS/2, InCharge!

About the software

This isn't new, raw software, with the rough edges showing. InCharge! is a full function personal and small business financial system for OS/2, which has been shipping for several years. InCharge! supports an unlimited number of sets of books, multiple currencies, and multiple year budgeting. Your accounting records can use single entry or double entry accounting. Double entry is primarily intended for those with a small business whose books must be auditable.

You can keep an unlimited number of accounts in a set of books. All types of accounts are supported, such as bank, credit card, brokerage, and CMA's. Twelve types of transactions are supported for each account: check, deposit, withdrawal, interest, charge, payment, credit, debit, refund, tax, shipping, and discount. A complete payables and receivables system tracks bills and loans in real time. It tells you when bills are due, automates the payments, and keeps a complete history of bill activity. InCharge! supports CheckFree bill payment system. All you need is a modem to pay all bills on the exact date they are due. Full property management capabilities are built in, including home inventory.

The insurance management module tracks insurance coverage on an item by item basis; you can track up to ten different types of insurance policies. You can manage securities, including stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and CD's. InCharge! supports multiple stock portfolios, brokerage accounts, and complete tax management tracking; it interfaces directly to all major tax programs. Purchases, sales, reinvestments, stock splits, dividend and interest payments, corporate mergers, and corporate divestitures can be processed. You can import current stock quotes from CompuServe and Prodigy.

Small business accounting

For small product and service-oriented businesses, In Charge! provides billing and invoicing with integrated order entry and sales analysis. The program works with the payables and receivables system to manage your receivables, and the business inventory system to manage your stock. InCharge processes both cash and credit card payments. The complete small business inventory system is integrated with billing/invoicing, order entry, and payables.

InCharge! prints checks on all styles of continuous and laser check stock. Checks can be printed immediately or queued for later printing. Both predefined reports and a generalized query/report writer help you see where you stand. Reports can be displayed on screen, printed, saved, or exported to a word processor.

The financial planner in InCharge! helps you plan retirement, college, mortgages, etc. You can calculate parameters for compound interest investments, annuities, regular withdrawals, and loans/mortgages, and display amortization tables.

A job timer (time slips function) has five independent timers which automatically calculate billable time and charges and posts them to the customer's InCharge! account. If items are due (such as scheduled batch transactions, scheduled notes, and pending CheckFree actions) you'll be notified.

InCharge! ties all systems together for budgeting, payables/receivables, net worth, cash flow analysis, and cash flow planning. It imports directly from Personal Finances 2, Quicken, selected other financial systems, database programs, spread sheets, and any other program which can generate Quicken's QIF format or InCharge's CSV format files. It exports data in CSV and QIF formats to database and spread sheet programs. InCharge! is a truly complete personal and small business financial system. It takes full advantage of OS/2 facilities including the Presentation Manager GUI interface, flat address space and multiple threads.

When and where

The general meeting is at 7:00pm on Tuesday, February 10, at the Mountain Preserve Reception Center, 1431 East Dunlap. The "random access" Q&A session starts at 6:30pm. We're sure to reconvene afterwards at Coyote Springs.

General meeting

what

▲ Spitfire Software showing InCharge! accounting software

where

▲ Mountain Preserve Reception Center
1431 E Dunlap
Phoenix, Arizona

when

▲ Tuesday, February 10, 1998
▲ 6:30pm: Q & A session
▲ 7:00pm: Regular meeting

Coming events

This is a list of events scheduled by the Phoenix OS/2 Society. Unless otherwise noted, active members may attend any scheduled event for free.

Meeting notes

For the latest updates on the Society's event calendar, check the Web site at `http://www.possi.org`.

For meeting information and other queries, call the Phoenix OS/2 Society's voice mail at 602-949-4341.

If you have suggestions, ideas, or comments on the content of general meetings, contact the Society's Program Chair, Esther Schindler, at the general meetings or send email to `esther@bitranch.com`.

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 1998

3 net.sig (Internet SIG). Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Mike Briggs. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

3 LAN SIG. Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Elliot Abramowitz. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix. (*Meeting canceled for this month.*)

5 Magazine submission deadline for March issue. Articles should be sent to `editor@possi.org`. For other arrangements, call 602-585-5852.

10 HOW (How OS/2 Works) GIG. Meeting is 3:30pm to 5:30pm. Coordinators Rosey Rosenwald and Stan Kropen. Location: Mountain Preserve Reception Center, 1431 East Dunlap, Phoenix.

10 General meeting; Spitfire Software, showing InCharge! accounting software for OS/2. Meeting is 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Q&A session is 6:30pm to 7:00pm. Location: Mountain Preserve Reception Center, 1431 East Dunlap, Phoenix.

28 Board meeting and magazine prep. Meeting is 10:00am to 1:00pm. Eat a brunch, learn about the inner workings of the Society, and help get extended attributes ready to mail. Location: Bill and Esther Schindler's house in north Scottsdale. *Note: New address! 9355 E Mark Lane. It's only a half mile from the old place, but you'll probably need directions. Call 585-5852 or send email to* `esther@bitranch.com`. *Remember to bring a potluck dish to share, too.*

March 1998

3 net.sig (Internet SIG). Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Mike Briggs. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

3 Developer's SIG. Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Lyle Wilson. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

5 Magazine submission deadline for April issue. Articles should be sent to `editor@possi.org`. For other arrangements, call 602-585-5852.

10 HOW (How OS/2 Works) GIG. Meeting is 3:30pm to 5:30pm. Coordinators Rosey Rosenwald and Stan Kropen. Location: Mountain Preserve Reception Center, 1431 East Dunlap, Phoenix.

10 General meeting. Meeting is 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Q&A session is 6:30pm to 7:00pm. Location: Mountain Preserve Reception Center, 1431 East Dunlap, Phoenix.

28 Board meeting and magazine prep.

April 1998

5 Magazine submission deadline for May issue. Articles should be sent to `editor@possi.org`. For other arrangements, call 602-585-5852.

7 net.sig (Internet SIG). Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Mike Briggs. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

7 LAN SIG. Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Elliot Abramowitz. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

14 HOW (How OS/2 Works) GIG. Meeting is 3:30pm to 5:30pm. Coordinators Rosey Rosenwald and Stan Kropen. Location: Mountain Preserve Reception Center, 1431 East Dunlap, Phoenix.

14 General meeting; Southsoft's PMMail and PMNews. Meeting is 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Q&A session is 6:30pm to 7:00pm. Location: Mountain Preserve Reception Center, 1431 East Dunlap, Phoenix.

25 Board meeting and magazine prep.

May 1998

5 net.sig (Internet SIG). Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Mike Briggs. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

5 Developer's SIG. Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Lyle Wilson. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

5 Magazine submission deadline for June issue. Articles should be sent to `editor@possi.org`. For other arrangements, call 602-585-5852.

12 HOW (How OS/2 Works) GIG. Meeting is 3:30pm to 5:30pm. Coordinators Rosey Rosenwald and Stan Kropen. Location: Mountain Preserve Reception Center, 1431 East Dunlap, Phoenix.

12 General meeting. Meeting is 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Q&A session is 6:30pm to 7:00pm. Location: Mountain Preserve Reception Center, 1431 East Dunlap, Phoenix.

23 Board meeting and magazine prep.

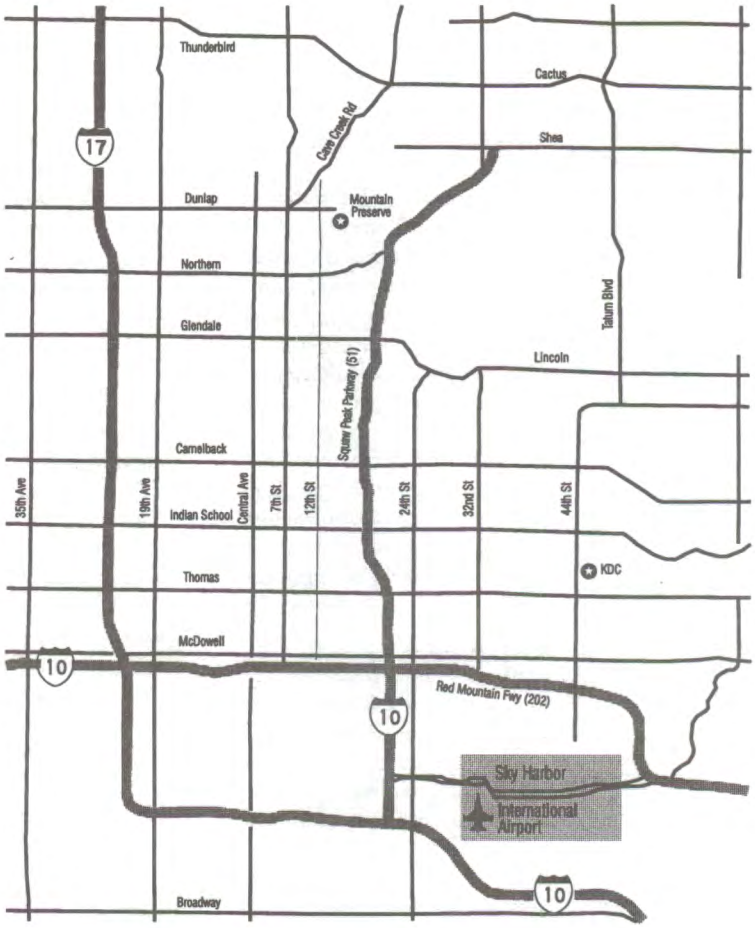
Meeting locations

General meetings are held at the Mountain Preserve Reception Center, 1431 East Dunlap, Phoenix.

From the Black Canyon, exit at Dunlap and head east. From the Squaw Peak, exit at Northern. Go west to 12th Street, turn right and go north to Dunlap, turn right, and it's two blocks up on the right.

The "How OS/2 Works General Interest Group" now meets at the Mountain Preserve Reception Center on the afternoon of the general meeting.

The Internet SIG, Developer's SIG, and LAN SIG all meet at Knowledge Development Center, 2999 N 44th St, Suite 400. That's just north of Thomas, in the building with the green dome. Plenty of free parking space is available in the garage behind the building.



If the mailing label on the back cover says "sample," then this may be the only copy of *extended attributes* that you will ever receive. If you want to keep getting the magazine (and receive all the other benefits of membership), you must join! A 12 month membership in the US is only $30. (See the form for membership pricing in other areas.) Tear out the application form, fill it in, and mail it with the membership fee to the Society's address.

.sigs
SIG news

.net sig

by Mike Briggs

At the last meeting, Jim Edgerton of Powervar talked to us about electrical line conditioners and how important that can be to your copmputer. It was interesting to see how little, if at all, a common surge protector helped condition the power coming into your equipment. Later Mark Edgerton of Fiestanet told us about DSL service becoming available in the Valley through US West, and later ISPs like Fiestanet.

Next meeting, I've talked Robert Rosenwald and Warren Tripp to tell us of their exeriences with DSL and COX cable modems respectively. It's time to hear what real customers think of the services.

Society's Web site moves

The Phoenix OS/2 Society's Web site and list servers are moving.

Since the Society first put up a Web page, the site has been hosted on an Internet Direct GoSite. As of late January, 1998, the site will move to FalconNet.

The domain name will remain the same (`possi.org`), however the IP addresses will change. Web site access should not be affected.

The members listserv will change. There will be the ability to receive either individual messages or a daily digest. There will also be a "read-only" announcement server.

Please check the Web site at `www.possi.org` for announcements of new services and changes.

Letters to the editor should be sent to editor@possi.org, or mailed to:
Editor, extended attributes
Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc
5515 N 7th St, Ste 5-133
Phoenix, AZ 85014-2585

We reserve the right to edit all letters for content, readability, and length.

I was curious, after reading Esther Schindler's comments in *extended attributes*, about the settings to use to avoid WordPerfect 5.1 for DOS kludging everything if allowed to print in the background. I am aware of some of the priority settings available but never succeeded in finding a combination that allows me to use the background printing feature since WP51 polls constantly.

When you mentioned creating separate program objects for each DOS or Windows application, were you indicating using "separate sessions" for Windows applications?

Mark Henigan

Esther responds:

No, I meant to create a separate program object for each Windows application, using the program object template. Then each program can run the way it "wants to." Also, when you create a program object this way, and type in the name/path of the program (c:wpwp51.exe) OS/2 consults a database in the \os2\install directory called database.dat (nobody gave IBM credit for name creativity). If the program is a common one, it will be included, and OS/2 will "start out with" the settings in database.dat. I just looked up the settings for WordPerfect 5.1, for instance, and here's what it said.

```
REM WordPerfect 5.1 by Word-
Perfect
NAME WP.EXE
TITLE WordPerfect 5.1
TYPE DOS
ASSOC_FILE WP51.INS, WP51-
386.PIF
DEF_DIR WP51
KBD_BUFFER_EXTEND OFF
MOUSE_EXCLUSIVE_ACCESS OFF
SESSION_MODE FULLSCREEN
DOS_HIGH ON
DOS_UMB ON
HW_ROM_TO_RAM ON
IDLE_SENSITIVITY 100
IDLE_SECONDS 60
DOS_BACKGROUND_EXECUTION OFF
VIDEO_RETRACE_EMULATION OFF
INT_DURING_IO OFF
FOLDER <WP_APPSFOLDER>
```

The database.dat info isn't always perfect, but it's a good starting point. –Esther Schindler

In search of stability

I am an OS/2 newbie and an enthusiastic one at that. I used Windows 3.1 and Windows 95 and incurred pretty good knowledge of both OSs, especially Windows 95. I got bored with Windows, and tired of its instability, which could be downright inconvenient and bothersome at times.

I decided to try another, more stable OS. Windows NT was my initial choice. OS/2 was a fleeting consideration since I did not know anything about it and furthermore was not hearing anything about it. Curiously, what pushed me to finding out about OS/2 were the constant warnings about Windows NT, the difficulties with installing and using it.

So, I visited IBM, did some reading, and became interested. I decided to try OS/2 Warp 4 and I have not looked back. I had my difficult moments but this was all part of the learning curve, not learning about what I had to put up with as with Windows.

I am a pure end user who has given OS/2 its full trial—getting a lot of native applications and trying them. I am truly impressed and now have a system here: far more stable, robust, and downright superior to Windows 95. I only use two Windows programs at this time and already have OS/2 native solutions on the drawing board to replace them. Nothing beats a good application native to OS/2!

After months of careful observation and reading about Warpstock, I must agree with the general opinion (except for IBM's) that the SOHO market for OS/2 is very much alive and has much potential. I was an enthusiast who loved cutting edge Windows programs for my computing needs, but have not missed them. I have no yearning to port these to OS/2 without finding native solutions and this, I am sure, is the opinion of most SOHO users out there. They generally tend to be different (i.e., of a higher technical breed) than SOHO users of Windows and appreciate things based on merit and not necessarily only popularity.

If the SOHO user base out there keeps the faith and continues supporting ISVs , then we have nothing to worry about. If I could, all by myself and through my own curiosity, be converted way back here in Jamaica, then there must be others out there just starting out or looking at OS/2. But they need a push and it's up to IBM or OS/2 ISVs to do this. OS/2 needs to be more available and visible. I don't expect that we will get back a great part of the SOHO market which comprises, in a great part, relative simpletons to computing, who basically love a simple operating system and who subconsciously believe in the saying "ignorance is bliss."

I feel that a significant, elite, appreciative segment can be captured, big enough to make it greater than worthwhile to IBM to continue SOHO support.

Ever onward OS/2 and SOHO users, keep the faith and continue supporting your ISVs.

Dr. Allie Martin

Wants and opportunities

I was really saddened when I read Bill Schindler's comment: "IBM never wanted Team OS/2 or any of its relatives. IBM never really wanted home users or small business..." (October 97 *extended attributes*).

I am not even sure that IBM wanted big business in general, maybe only in some selected areas. For the past 3+ months I've been working as a contract engineer at a very large aircraft manufacturer. What I've seen is that CATIA is obviously running on mainframe or AIX. The rest of the offices are Windows 95. That's what I saw so far.

As you probably know, Microsoft is being sued by the Department of Justice for breaking the 1995 agreement. I also read that some big states (Texas, New York, Illinois, and others) are either suing or thinking about suing Microsoft. Plus Caldera is suing them for $2 billion.

I think that there could be opportunity for IBM in all this but I am sure they will sit on their hands and do nothing, or, as Esther Schindler put it: "...Some guys in plush

Lastmonth
Smack!

by Joel Frey

Smack! Not Smack/2 or SmackPM. Just *Smack!*

Aside from its visual and audible appeal and the fact that it induces an almost irresistible urge to make a play on words, the name of this product breaks the mold for OS/2 product names and extends the range of applications available for OS/2. If you attended Warpstock you might have seen it demoed there, but we got a closer look at the software at our December meeting—as well as the inside scoop from both the developer and the vendor.

Developed by Bill Schindler, marketed by Rosey Rosenwald, and supported by Mike Briggs, all core members of the Phoenix OS/2 Society, *Smack!* is a nifty piece of software that produces labels, business cards, badges, and virtually any printed item that comes in litters. *Smack!* offers a variety of features like rotation and shadowing of objects, in addition to the things we've come to know and like about good OS/2 software like Workplace Shell integration, multithreading, and REXX manipulation.

Given the current climate in the OS/2 software market, you might wonder why somebody would continue to develop and roll out a new product. Rosey is the owner of Perfect Niche Software in Scottsdale which develops and markets special-purpose software to the photographic industry, as well as a founding member of POSSI. His market is photographers using DOS, Windows, OS/2, and Macintosh, with a disproportionate number using Macs. Although not a programmer himself ("I can do enough to erase a hard disk... and I can even do it so it doesn't prompt me yes or no"), he has been wanting to develop an OS/2 labeling program for about four years, but was waiting for the right developer. He uses a DOS version of Avery Label Pro once or twice a month, but "I have really wanted an OS/2 program, I guess, partly because I love OS/2, and partly because I feel an anomaly having DOS, Windows, and Mac software when we use OS/2 throughout our office. But I wasn't willing to do it until I could find somebody who had some skill in writing for OS/2. Well, happily for me, after bugging him for some time, Bill discovered that he had some time on his calendar. I felt that Bill had some idea what he was doing, and he keeps proving me right, basically [laughter].

"I think it really matters, because we all know there's a world of difference between an OS/2 application and a DOS or Windows application, even native, and we all get used to doing things in certain ways, we're used to that interface, and so an understanding and familiarity with how OS/2 works was, to me, critical."

So, where did the name *Smack!* come from? Someone in the audience asked if it was an acronym for something. Rosey said it was his idea, that it resulted from the term "Smack a label on it." Although "Slap a label..." is probably more common, I would have to say that "Slap!" just doesn't have the same panache, especially in terms of wordplay. All the same, it might be worth locking down the whole line of onomatopoeic names for future products. Save "Crash!" for the folks in Redmond, though. Let's see what their marketing department does when they don't have a misnomer to work with. (I couldn't resist the urge any longer. That was mean. Just *Smack!* me.)

Now that we've got all the background out of the way (and most of the lame jokes), there's not much room left to talk about the actual product. It has been in development for about a year, and suffice it to say that Bill did a superb job. *Smack!* has all of the features and functionality you would expect in a good OS/2 product, plus some really great ones. Since it was still officially in beta at the time of the meeting, there were some minor glitches, but it really looked quite good. Maybe there is, or will be a demo version so you can see for yourself.

At the end of the meeting, virtually everyone went home with something because Esther and Bill were moving and some boxes of software had grown in their garage, sort of like mold and mildew develop in less technical environments. Naturally, the door prizes included two copies of *Smack!* I won one of them, or at least a license for it when it goes gold. I guess that means I got a virtual *Smack!* See what I mean? The urge is just irresistible.

Letters (cont)

corner offices think they know better."

On another subject: I have moved recently and would like to get an OS/2 BBS number in Everett, WA. area (that's north of Seattle). Can any POSSI members help?

Keep up the good work!

Jacek Hejnar

OS/2oons by Harry Martin

"Removing that alien thing may well kill the patient...then again, he's gonna die anyway!"

Judgement of errors

by Marilyn Pizzo

Let's see a show of hands. How many have ever had an error message? If you didn't raise your hand, you obviously don't use your computer much! I have had my share of those lovely errors. It is a little unsettling when your beloved computer sticks its tongue out at you and throws a tantrum. It isn't a pretty sight.

As we know, OS/2 doesn't burp very often, but when there is an error of some sort, it is something to take seriously. Let's take a look at what these error messages mean. Some of the error messages are self-explanatory... and some are not!

Copying and moving files

When copying and moving files you could get one of the following error messages.

SYS0002: The system cannot find the file specified. This is like the "File not found" message from DOS. Usually, you've made a typographical error or specified the wrong directory. Checking these things should solve your problem.

A *SYS0003: The system cannot find the path specified* message means you have given OS/2 the wrong directions (turn left instead of right). Double check the directory and path.

SYS0017: The system cannot move the file to a different disk drive means that the MOVE command will only work within the same disk drive. If you need to move a file from one disk drive to another use the copy command and then delete it from the original drive.

SYS0023: Data error (cyclic redundancy check) occurs when OS/2 cannot read or write data correctly. If you are reading from or writing to a hard disk, try again. If the error reoccurs, you may have a hardware problem. If you are trying to read or write to a diskette, be sure the diskette is formatted. Try again with another diskette.

SYS:0025: The drive cannot locate a specific area or track on the disk indicates the diskette may be bad or simply unformatted (buying your diskettes pre-formatted helps here) or formatted with an incompatible operating system. Taking the diskette out and reinserting it once you are sure it is properly formatted may fix this error.

SYS0047: The system cannot write to the ____ device usually occurs while writing to a diskette or printer. If it was your printer, be sure it is turned on, properly connected, and the printer driver is actually installed on the system. If you were trying to write to a diskette, be sure it is properly inserted and is formatted. Try another diskette if need be.

SYS0266: The specified file was not copied could occur if the source and target files are not in the same file system.

SYS1061: The system detected a file error happens if you try to write to a read-only file or the directory is full. If the file is read-only, you can use the ATTRIB command to change the read-only attribute. If the directory is full you will have to delete some unneeded files to make room.

SYS1186: XCOPY cannot access the source file could result from any of the following situations: there is a cyclical redundancy check error, the file is in use by another process, too many files are open, or the diskette is not a DOS diskette. Once you fix the problem you can try to copy the file again.

SYS1187: XCOPY cannot access the target file means you have one of the following problems: the disk is full, the file or drive is in use or locked by another process, too many files are open, the target file is a read-only file, or a disk error has occurred. When you have fixed the problem, try again.

SYS1262: An error occurred while writing to the target diskette means that information on the target diskette might be distorted. During DISKCOPY the system detected an error while writing to the target diskette.

SYS0250: The move or rename operation is not allowed occurs when you try to move or rename a parent directory to one of its subdirectories. Don't do that!

SYS0251: The move or rename operation is not allowed is not the same as the prior error. In this case the move or rename is not allowed because COMMAND.COM or CMD.EXE is in the source directory or the source directory is in use.

Errors from deleting/undeleting

Deleting and undeleting can lead to another group of error messages.

SYS0005: Access is denied can occur if the file is read-only or being used by another process. You can use the ATTRIB command to change the read-only flag or use the second File page of the settings notebook. If the file is already in use, check the Window List and close whatever session may have the file locked.

SYS0016: the directory cannot be removed means that you tried to remove the current directory or a directory that contains files or other directories. Remember to empty out the files before trying to remove the directory.

SYS3203: No matching files were found happens when trying to undelete files. Type UNDELETE [drive]*/ LIST /S for a list of all the recoverable files on the disk. If it isn't there you can't undelete it.

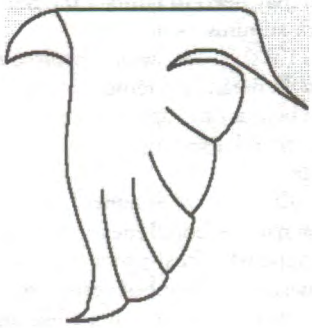
Out to launch

Launching and running applications give you yet another group of error messages to contend with.

SYS0004: The system cannot open the file means you have too many files open. Try closing one of the programs you are running and try again.

SYS0008: There is not enough storage available to process this command. All available storage is in use means that either the swapfile is full or a hardware error has occurred on the disk that contains the swapfile. Close one or more programs and try again. If this error message is too familiar to you, remove unneeded files from the hard disk that holds the swapfile. If this doesn't solve the problem, you may have to add more memory to your system.

SYS0019: The drive is currently write-protected reminds you that you cannot change or add anything to a



Falcon Networking

Home of the OS/2 Supersite

- Over 2 gigabytes of OS/2 shareware and freeware
- Mailing lists such as OS2USER and WarpCast
- Home of several popular OS/2 web sites such as OS/2 e-Zine!, EDM/2, OS/2 Connect, and Timur Tabi' s New OS/2 User page.
- The OS/2 Discussion Forum
- Online shareware registration and commercial software purchasing
- Mirror of the Hobbes /incoming directory
- The Supersite Select- review, download, and purchase the best OS/2 software to be had

http://www.os2ss.com

BMT Micro Means Professional Software Distribution

We' re proud to bring you the very best software for OS/2 available in a prompt and professional manner. Here at **BMT Micro** we are always looking for innovative ways to serve the OS/2 community.

Professional **BMT Micro** Software Distribution

However, we couldn' t do it without you, the OS/2 user. With that in mind, we' d like to take a moment and thank each of you for your continued patronage.

Visit us today and see what' s new - we' re continually adding quality OS/2 software to our catalog and there' s one thing you can always count on: If it' s good and it' s for OS/2 you can get it at **BMT Micro**.

Visit us today at
http://www.bmtmicro.com

Rapid Internet Purchasing from BMT Micro and Falcon Networking

RIP is the fast and secure online software distribution system created by BMT Micro and Falcon Networking. With RIP you can place orders for software and receive a download password or registration key **in minutes!** All transactions are encrypted to ensure that your personal information remains secure.

RIP has the largest selection to be found of OS/2 software for online purchasing. Some of the vendors include **SofTouch, Stardock, dadaware, Oberon Software, WORKLab, Perez Computing, MainConcept, Modular Dreams,** and others.

https://secure.falcon-net.net/BMT/RIP/

write-protected drive. If this is a diskette, move the plastic tab in the corner so the hole is closed. If the tab is missing, use black tape to cover the hole.

SYS0035: The program could not open the requested file occurs when a program tries to open a file using file control blocks (FCBs) and the FCB limit has been exceeded. Edit your CONFIG.SYS to make the value of FCBS= larger. You must then shutdown your system and reboot for the changes to take place.

SYS0088: A write fault occurred on the network means an error occurred while writing data to the disk. There may not have been enough free disk space available or you don't have the proper access to that part of the network.

SYS0191: ___ cannot be run in an OS/2 session is saying that the specified file or program is either a DOS application or is incompatible with OS/2. If your application is a DOS program, switch to a DOS session and you should have no problems. If the application isn't compatible with OS/2, yell at the software company.

SYS1041: The name specified is not recognized as an internal or external command, operable program, or batch file is the OS/2 version of the ever so familiar DOS message "Bad command or file name." Any command entered at the command line must be an OS/2 internal or external command, batch file, or the filename of an executable file that launches a program. Make sure you didn't misspell something. Then check to make sure the command or file is in the current path.

SYS1057: The file or pathname entered is not valid in a DOS session means the filename or the path is not valid and doesn't conform to the DOS 8.3 file format (for FAT systems). You must either rename the file or path or move the file to a path that is valid in a DOS session.

SYS1081: CMD.EXE has halted is a big problem. Either a program tried to cancel CMD.EXE or it was started with a redirected input file. The only solution is to restart the system.

SYS1107: The system cannot complete the process means you are trying to run a DOS command and are not in a DOS session or it is an invalid executable file. Switch to a DOS session. Also, check for typographical errors.

SYS3016: This session was halted because COMMAND.COM cannot be loaded indicates there is no permanent copy of COMMAND.COM to return to. Close the DOS session and load a secondary copy into memory.

Printing problems

Printing brings another set of possible errors.

SYS0028: The printer is out of paper, or there is not enough space to create a spool file seems an unlikely combination of errors. The printer may be out of paper (too obvious) or it may be turned off or not on-line. This error message could occur if there is a loose printer cable connection or bad cable. If you do have a shortage of disk space, you will need to delete some files from the disk the spool directory is on.

SYS0039: The ___ device is not ready could mean that a device driver for a COM port was specified but not installed or has been disabled. Check to be sure there is really hardware for that COM device.

SYS1525: The system cannot accept the option selected indicates an option for PRINT was selected that does not exist. /B, /C, /T, and /D are the only options acceptable.

SYS1529: The system cannot print the file to the device specified means you have not specified PRN, LPT1, LPT2, or LPT3 as the correct printer device.

SYS1531: The spooler is not running means a /C or /T option was requested with PRINT but the spooler is not running. Retry your print command without these options, or launch the spooler.

Network errors

If you have a network, here are some error messages you may encounter.

SYS0050: The network request is not supported means you are trying to do something not permitted from your workstation or not supported on the file server you specified. Be sure you are contacting the proper file server. You may need to contact the network administrator.

SYS0051: The remote computer is not available means the remote computer may be busy or turned off or you specified the wrong computer name.

SYS0054: The network is busy, or is out of resources could mean just that: the network is busy processing other requests or it is out of resources. Your best bet is to wait a while and try again. *SYS0056: The network BIOS command limit has been reached* also is a busy signal. Wait and try again.

SYS0057: A network adapter hardware error occurred indicates you have a problem with the network interface card or the cable connecting the card to the network.

SYS0059: An unexpected network error occurred could be caused by the software being used, the task, or the network type. This problem is for the network administrator to investigate.

SYS0061: The printer queue is full means the printer cannot accept any more print requests. Wait and try again. *SYS0062: Space to store the file waiting to be printed is not available on the server* is another busy signal at the printer.

SYS0663: Your file waiting to be printed was deleted means that one of your beloved coworkers deleted your print file. Verbal abuse might make you feel better.

SYS0064: The specified network name is no longer available means the resource specified may be off-line or that the user needs to be given broader access.

SYS0065: Network access denied could mean you don't have an account on the server or you don't have the proper privileges assigned to your account.

SYS0070: The remote server has been paused or is in the process of being started tells you to wait while the network server is being started.

Hardware woes

Hardware and system problems can create some interesting error messages of their own.

SYS0026: The specified disk or diskette cannot be accessed means the dis-

kette you are trying to use is not formatted or is improperly formatted. Buy the preformatted kind. It makes things so much easier for you. If it's a hard disk, your stomach will flip-flop around now.

SYS0027: The drive cannot find the sector(area) requested could mean the diskette is damaged, unformatted, formatted for an incompatible operating system or you may have put a high-density diskette into a double-density drive.

SYS0036: The system has detected an overflow in the sharing buffer is usually a temporary condition. When fewer programs are running, try again.

SYS0082: The directory or file cannot be created is telling you that you used the MD command to make a directory that already exists or you tried to create a file that already exists. This message will also appear if you try to create a file in the root directory and it is full, there is not enough room on the disk to create a file or directory, or if the filename or directory name is a reserved name.

SYS0084: Storage to process this request is not available is another busy signal. Be patient and try again.

SYS0108: The disk is in use or locked by another process means that another process has gained exclusive rights to use the disk or diskette. If you wait your turn you should be okay. (You might also need to shutdown and reboot the system before the file is unlocked.)

SYS0171: A program in this session encountered a problem and cannot continue is almost always a programming problem where the application disabled the interrupts and did not reset them in a reasonable period of time.

SYS0547: CHKDSK cannot write recovered data to the disk indicates CHKDSK located lost files but did not write the information to the disk yet. You may have to delete some unneeded files to make room.

SYS0565: Warning! CHKDSK cannot read critical HPFS data on the specified disk. Do not turn your computer off before you back up files. Back up all files on this disk immediately will make you stand up and pay attention. The disk may be bad and if you turn off your computer you may not be able to access that partition. If this is your primary partition, you will not be able to restart your system. Back up all files and directories. Reformat the drive using the FORMAT with the /FS:HPFS parameter. Restore your data from the back up you made.

SYS0665: VMOUSE.SYS is required for MOUSE on OS/2 tells you that while trying to load MOUSE.COM in a DOS session the OS/2 VMOUSE.SYS device driver was not present. Check the CONFIG.SYS to be sure there is a DEVICE= statement that loads the proper device driver. If not, you will have to install the DOS support option.

SYS1035: The system cannot accept the path or file name requested means that while using the RENAME, TYPE, MKDIR, MOVE, or RMDIR command an incorrect path or filename was entered.

SYS1195: The command ___ on line ___ of the CONFIG.SYS file is not recognized. Line ___ is ignored indicates the command is not recognized as a configuration command. You must edit the CONFIG.SYS to change or remove the command and then reboot. *SYS1196: The parameter ___ on line ___ of the CONFIG.SYS file is not acceptable for the ___ command. Line ___ is ignored* is similar to the previous one. You must edit the CONFIG.SYS and reboot to fix the problem. Another error message requiring that you edit the CONFIG.SYS to correct the problem is *SYS1197: The ___ command requires a parameter that is not specified on line ___ of the CONFIG.SYS file. Line ___ is ignored.*

SYS1347: ___ directory is totally empty. Tree past this point is not processed tells you that during CHKDSK a subdirectory that did not have a "." or ".." entry was found and the operating system was unable to update the disk properly due to premature shutdown.

SYS1359: ___ bytes disk space would be freed occurs when CHKDSK found some disk space marked allocated but not associated with any file. Run CHKDSK /F to free up the space.

SYS1470: The system cannot accept the drive ___ specified for the SWAPPATH= statement in the CONFIG.SYS file. The default drive ___ will be used is telling you that the drive you specified for the SWAPPATH= statement is not a single letter followed by a colon (and maybe a path) or the drive specified doesn't exist. Edit your CONFIG.SYS and reboot.

SYS1477: Warning! The partition containing the SWAPPER.DAT file is full. You may lose data indicates your system needs additional virtual memory for an application but is unable to expand the size of the swap file to meet the request. You can either close down some applications that are running (which is the best idea) or, to solve the problem on the longer term, delete unneeded files on the partition to increase the amount of available space.

SYS1664: The system cannot write to the BACKUP log file. Press Enter to continue, or press Ctrl+Break to cancel means that the /l option was used in the BACKUP command but there is not enough room on the disk to create the log file. Pressing Enter allows you to continue without adding more entries to the log file. Pressing Ctrl+Break allows you to delete unneeded files and retry.

SYS2068: ___ messages were lost occurs during initialization when there are so many error messages to display there is not enough room to display then all. When you correct the errors that were displayed and restart your system, the rest of the error messages will be displayed.

Error prone

I'm sure many of you are surprised that there are so many error messages. I know I was! This doesn't even take into account the "TRAP" messages, which will be for next time. Hopefully, this will be a quicker reference for you if you do get an error message. Plus, it's instructive to know what kind of messages can be generated even if you don't see them. You can also type HELP nnnn (such as HELP 1197) from the command prompt for some information.

review

Object Desktop Pro, hands-on

by David Azarewicz

Everyone wants to customize his personal computing space the way he wants. With the flexibility that OS/2 provides, there certainly is no shortage of software products that help you customize your desktop just the way you like. Object Desktop Professional is probably the Cadillac of Workplace Shell enhancers.

There are a lot of pieces to Object Desktop Professional, and I'm willing to bet that most people who use OD Pro don't use all the features. I don't! The installation program supports this by allowing you to select which modules you want to install. On top of that, you can enable and disable many of the features after installation.

In this article, I'll describe a few of the features I think are really cool, but I'll also tell you about a few things that, shall we say, could use a bit of improvement.

Stardock Systems, Inc.
7977 Ronda Drive Suite B
Canton, Michigan 48187
Phone 313-453-0328
Fax 313-453-1480
info@stardock.com
www.stardock.com

List Price: $179 ($149 on Commerce Server) Note: Their web page says $129, but when you actually get to the commerce server, it says $149.

David Azarewicz is a hardware and software engineer, and owner of Delta Systems Engineering. He has used OS/2 since version 2.0, is an avid supporter of OS/2, and is a member of Team OS/2 and POSSI.

Control Center

The Control Center is wonderful. It lets you see how full your disks are, how big your swap file is, your CPU usage, free RAM, and the time, all in one place. Unfortunately, on my system, the CPU meter always says 100%, and free RAM indicator is always 512K, so I have them turned off. I don't really need those anyway.

What I couldn't live without is the virtual desktop control. I think this one feature has increased my productivity more than anything else. It doesn't matter how cluttered my desktop gets, or whether I'm running a maximized application; all I need to do is run my mouse pointer down to the bottom corner of the screen, and up pops the Control Center. Then I can switch to another desktop to start up some more stuff.

One of the features of the Control Panel is that you can drag and drop folders onto it, which when clicked on, will open via fly-out menus. This is great, because one of the things you can put there is a shadow of your desktop! You don't have to move or close any windows to get at the stuff underneath. It's all just a few clicks away through the Control Center. You do, however, have to be careful about changing things inside folders that are on the Control Center. The Control Center's fly-out menus don't seem to notice when the contents of the folders they represent have changed. They will continue to display the same menus until the Control Center is restarted, even if, for example, you were looking at the contents of drive A and you changed to a different floppy.

I also really like the Tab LaunchPad. It looks something like the launchpad from OS/2 Warp 3, but greatly improved. You can create tabbed dividers to organize the objects you drag and drop there. I put everything to which I need quick access on the Tab LaunchPad. I also have it set up to activate when my mouse hits the lower right corner. That way I can instantly open print queues, new OS/2 windows, etc.

Backup tools

I use Object Package to create backups of the Control Center, the Tab LaunchPad, my Desktop, and various folders. That way, when I really mess things up, I can recreate them from the packages. I also use it to transfer items to my laptop when I travel.

Object Package works very well, except for the way it handles shadows of folders. It will store the shadow in the package, but it does not recurse into the folder and store the objects inside.

Desktop Backup Advisor works the same way. Stardock claims that Desktop Backup Advisor is a perfect tool for cleaning up the INI files. When I tried it, I found that it did not save (and therefore did not restore) data in folders where only a shadow of the folder was on the desktop. I don't think I would really call this a "bug." All you need to do is understand how the software works and it is still a very useful tool. Just make sure you have a backup before trying things with your INI files.

Viewers

The main reason I upgraded from Object Desktop to Object Desktop Professional was the Viewers. The Object Viewers allow you to view hundreds of file types simply by double clicking them. Object Desktop Professional automatically recognizes the format and launches the appropriate viewer.

Since these are simple viewers, not full blown applications, they launch very quickly. You can copy the data from the viewer window and paste it into the application of your choice, maintaining the formatting. You can even print from the viewer. I get files from people in an unbelievable number of different formats; it is so nice to say "It doesn't matter, I can read just about anything!" And it's true. So far, I have been able to read every file anyone has given me.

Of course, Object Desktop Professional has many more features than I have covered here. All of them are well integrated into the Workplace Shell. Except for a few problems here and there, everything works just like you would expect good OS/2 software to work. However, it seems that Stardock has been slow to come out with fixes to the problems in Object Desktop. The last fixkit came out in October of 1996. There is a problem that I reported personally between PMMail and Object Desktop regarding dragging a ZIP file from PMMail to a folder. This problem was reproduced at Stardock back in April 1997 and is still unresolved. Most of the problems are nuisance things or there are workarounds, but even nuisance things can become annoying after a while. I sure would like to see another fixkit soon.

The target market for the professional version of Object Desktop is corporate desktops and professionals. This is a good thing, because although Object Desktop Professional is packed with a lot of features, at a list price of $179, I think it is out of the price range of most home and SOHO users.

.trivial

Answers to Computer Bowl quiz

1. The first bulletin-board system (BBS)
9. 1,048,576
10. Gopher
17. Lisa
21. MSX
26. IBM PC Junior
29. Hero
31. Micro Instrumentation & Telemetry System
45. 22
50. 64K

Put Yourself in Our Place...

And See What a Training Environment Should Be.

Say good-bye to everyday hotel and meeting rooms and all the uncertainties that come with them. Say hello to Knowledge Development Center (KDC) and take a step up to the perfection you've always wanted and never had...until now.

KDC is Phoenix's only fully **configured, permanent, rentable** training facility. Each of our four rooms is also available for that special meeting when you need a memorable place to gather.

Call Walt Householder at 602-840-4750 and tell him you want to see what KDC can provide you. He would love to tell you all about it. For a tour, visit our WEB site at www.kdc-phoenix.com.

KDC KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

Knowledge Development Center
2999 N 44th St. Suite 400
Phoenix, Arizona 85018-7246
602-840-4750

Windows95 is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corp.

New and improved

compiled by Esther Schindler

What a haul! Quite a few interesting new applications have been released in the last month. (Obviously, everyone was trying to ship by year-end.) We haven't examined any of these programs yet; if there's one you're interested in reviewing for *extended attributes*, drop a note to Reviews Editor Craig Greenwood at `reviews@possi.org`. Do it soon, because some of these look really good!

BackTalk 2.0

BackTalk 2.0 is a free OS/2 speech system. It includes a robust and responsive multithreaded server interface, volume control, amplification, sound mute/unmute, queue purge, and a queue status watcher. BackTalk supports external programs and REXX.

Instead of just a WAV file saying, "You have received mail," how about hearing, "You have received mail from *name*, the subject is *subject*"? BackTalk was tested with PMMail, Post Road Mailer, MR/2 ICE, and Internet Adventurer.

You can hear what your friends say on IRC while you type into your word processor, or even while you're cooking. BackTalk lets you select the types of message to speak (private, public, addressed to you, ctcp, notify list, etc.). It also tells you which type of message was processed, and supports voice settings per IRC nickname. (Tested with GTIRC and Internet Adventurer.)

A speaking timer supports a normal and urgent mode that gets enabled at a specified amount of time left. Both have their own messages and lap between these spoken message event. Another message is available as an alarm. A speaking clock speaks the time at a regular interval.

BackTalk is available at `www.cam.org/~guardia/archives/btalk20.zip`. It requires the EMX libraries: `ftp://hobbes.nmsu.edu/pub/os2/dev/emx/v0.9c/emxrt.zip`. A dictionary is highly recommended. A free American English dictionary is at: `ftp://svr-ftp.eng.cam.ac.uk/pub/comp.speech/dictionaries/cmudict/cmudict.0.4.Z` or as a ZIP file at `www.cris.com/~djd/CMUDict.zip`

VoiceDialer/2

VoiceDialer/2 is a speakerphone program for voice modems. Cirrus Logic, Rockwell and US Robotics chipsets are currently supported.

The more important features are:

- Multithreaded design
- Automatic TALK after DIAL
- RING and ANSWER on incoming call
- Phonebook
- Volume controls

The program is tested on the following modems:

- Boca SoundExpression 14.4 voice modem (Cirrus Logic)
- Texas Instruments voice modem
- GENIUS voice modem (Rockwell)
- US Robotics Sportster Voice 33.6 external

For more info, contact Rossen Assenov at `rossen_assenov@hotmail.com`.

WarpZip

WarpZip manages ZIP files and OS/2 packed files in an unusual manner. WarpZip searches a directory, directory tree, hard disk, or CD for ZIP files (as well as those almost unrecognizable OS/2 packed files). Drag and drop is used extensively. Choose the target directory from directory trees and use the menu, or drag an archive (or selected files) to the directory for unzipping. Add or delete files from archives, view files in archives, or test run them and let WarpZip clean up after you.

Registration: $20. Available from BMT Micro.

Equation Editor 1.4

EqEd/2 is a shareware WYSIWYG equation editor for OS/2 PM. It can save your WYSIWYG-created formula in LaTex, OS/2, and Windows Bitmap (BMP), Z-Soft PCX, OS/2 metafile (MET) and encapsulated PostScript format.

EqEd/2 is a fairly small program. As a result, it's very quick to start it up, create your formula, and return to your favorite word processor to import the formula. It has the ability to communicate via DDE with DeScribe, so your formulas automatically appear in DeScribe when you finish using EqEd/2.

Registration: $25. Available at BMT Micro.

Program Commander/2 2.0

Program Commander/2 v2.0 is now available. Among its features are:

- Virtual desktops
- Hotkeys for application launching and switching (including Win-keys). Up to 108 combinations
- Advanced copy/paste operations.
- XWin-like changing window focus
- Automatic menu selection, as in Windows 95.
- Environment spaces. Even if an application requires it after CONFIG.SYS is changed, you don't need to reboot.
- Session Bar and QuickSwitch
- Icons on title-bar (like XIT)
- Scheduler for programs and power management events
- Spooler control, even without WPS.
- DOS and Win-OS/2 settings without WPS
- Application launcher with settable initial window position and size, hotkey, priority, environment, and scheduler.

To find out more or to download a copy see the Web site at `www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/Pines/7885/DownloadPC2.html`.

GNU C compiler

A Pentium-optimizing version of the GNU C compiler is now available. It was ported to OS/2 by Andrew Zabolotny (`bit@freya.etu.ru`). You can download a copy from the author's Web site at `www.goof.com/pcg/os2/`.

Apache SSL 1.2.4

Apache-SSL 1.2.4 for OS/2 is now available. Combining the popular Apache 1.2.4 with the latest SSLeay 0.8.1 encryption libraries, OS/2 users now have a secure server for today's demanding Internet commerce. Encryption and decryption speeds are quite respectable and comparable to the Linux versions.

Also, Thawte Consulting (`www.thawte.com/`) should be able to issue certificates. To download, visit `http://nuts.ml.org/`. Note: This is *not* for United States users or any user whose current country upholds RSADSI's patents on RSA encryption. It may be illegal to use, own, or download it in USA and/or France.

Smalled 2.0

Smalled 2.0 is a good looking high powered 32 bit fast multi threaded PM editor. Full drag and drop support (open, save, print, copy, move, shred, and PP), DragText compatible configurable WYSIWYG printing, Extended EA usage, toolbar, context popups, DBCS support, highly configurable, file search, file history, programmable text formatting tools, line and word wrap, autoindent, windowing functions. Included are the Smalled Clipboard Extensions.

New features in version 2 include:

- Full set of windowing functions.
- Window and print preferences.
- Programmable text tools.
- Unindent.
- Backwards search and replace.
- Multiple Undo/Redo.
- Stamps.
- Icons in statusbar.
- Extra save-popup on statusbar.
- Extra toolbar items.
- Floating toolbar.
- Smalled Clipboard extensions.
- Floater and SMECLP can be started from SE.

Improvements were made in autocascade, printing, formatting after HTML strip, selection handling, and elsewhere.

Registration $18; available at BMT Micro.

DOOM for OS/2 + DIVE

DOOM is a game developed by ID Software, Inc. It's the successor to Wolfenstein 3D, a three-dimensional action game, with a simple premise: kill everything you see, take everything you can, and find the exit.

DOOM saw the light under MS-DOS. Since that first release, versions have come to the market for different operating systems and even for consoles.

Now Id Software has released the whole Linux source code, giving us all the opportunity to adapt it to our favorite environments and machines, optimizing and improving it.

"DOOM for DIVE" is an OS/2 native version, entirely developed with the EMX development kit (a freeware product, available at many ftp sites). DOOM for DIVE makes use of OS/2 multithreading capabilities, ease of programming the PM window environment, and the incredible power of the DIVE (Direct Video Interface) library.

Another version makes use of the XFreeOS/2 window environment, available at `ftp://set.gmd.de/pub/misc/XFree86OS2/ports`

This release has only a few features:

- No sound support. Still trying to get the code up and running.
- No mouse support. I may implement it soon, but it will not be like the original.
- You can only kill the program, either using the Shift+F12 keys, from the Window List, or with any "program killer," such as YAP or PMKILL.
- This is DOOM version 1.10. Old WAD files may not work with it.

You can find the application at `www.arrakis.es/~worm/doomdive.htm` (English), `www.arrakis.es/~worm/doomdivs.htm` (Spanish), or `www.arrakis.es/~worm/doomdive.zip` (program)

Memory Game

A card matching game with 32 beautiful, 300 dpi, 256 color dinosaur pictures. Designed to work with the speech navigation in OS/2 Warp 4.0. Memory Game supports 640x480, 800x600, and 1024x768 resolutions. The registered version includes a second speech-enabled game, Leave-One, a puzzle similar to Pegged.

Registration: $10. Available at BMT Micro.

FileJet

FILEJET is a file manager and editor for Windows NT, Windows 95, DOS, and OS/2. It allows uniform operation in OS/2, Windows NT/95, and DOS.

Quick access to files is realized by one key stroke or a mouse click per operation. FILEJET requires about 500K disk usage per operating system. It's perfectly usable as a service tool, and can be started from a floppy.

Directory trees are saved on harddisk and read only after user action. Quick access to the directories is possible without reading the whole tree.

FILEJET supports long filenames under Windows 95 and OS/2 and networking. The names are automatically converted while copying files with long filenames from VFAT or HPFS to FAT.

Multiple file edit is possible with the integrated file editor, and you can copy text from one file to another.

An integrated file viewer displays files in ASCII or HEX. FILEJET works with ZIP, ARJ, ZOO, LHA, and LZH archives. They may be opened just like normal directories.

DOS $49, OS/2 $59, Windows NT/95 $59, DOS+OS/2 $69, Windows NT/95 plus DOS plus OS/2 $79. Available at BMT Micro.

ISDN/PM

The new version (2.9) of ISDNPM (An ISDN dialer for PPP, masquerading, etc) is released. For further information, look at `isdnpm29.txt` at `ftp://ftp.uni-freiburg.de/pub/pc/os2/isdn`

xBaseJ

Announcing xBaseJ!

No it's not another JDBC/ODBC interface to dBase files. This is a xBase database engine written entirely in Java.

Features include:

- Navigational access. xBaseJ classes offer several methods to process dBase III and IV files.
- Its own client/server package.

This version offers its own cli-

ent/server interface class to allow remote clients access to databases on your server machines. Method for method, the client code is just as powerful as the server side code (with exceptions).

- Database browser. xBaseJ has a class, dbfShow, that allows you to access local databases.
- Field level objects. Each field in the database is an object unto itself.
- Current dBase format supported. dBase III: DBF, DBT, and NDX. dBase IV: DBF, DBT, MDX, and NDX.

Registration: $95. Available at BMT Micro.

LinePlot

Neighborhood Business Services released version 1.4e of its data graphing program for scientific and engineering data, LinePlot.

LinePlot is extremely flexible in allowing graphing of a wide range of data types. The program can use multiple, independent data sets.

Data can be plotted with lines, symbols, error bars, or combinations. Lines connecting data points can be straight or curved. Complete user control of line and symbol parameters such as size, style, and color is provided. Colors are full 24-bit, and can be selected by dragging and dropping from an OS/2 color palette.

Complete user control of the graphing axes. A single graph can have up to five independently scaled, vertical axes. Axis types can be linear, log, or, three probability types based on a normal probability distribution. All axis types are invertible, to show max. to min. instead of the normal min. to max. Options for the automatic use of local currency symbols as well as automatic data truncation by thousands (K) or millions (M). Scaling and tick marks, both major and minor.

Graph annotations, independent of the data being plotted, can be placed anywhere on the graph. Annotations can be used to identify or highlight the data being plotted, as well as presenting additional information such as experimental conditions, assumptions, etc. Legends can identify plotted data. Each annotation and legend can have its own selectable font.

LinePlot can produce printed output or OS2 metafiles. Metafiles can be pasted directly into other OS2 applications like the Describe word processor. LinePlot permits sizing and placing a graph on a printed page.

All LinePlot file operations are conducted on separate threads.

The on-line help includes a "General Operation" section to give first time users an overview of how the program works.

Program installation includes a number of sample graphs, with separate documentation plus the raw data files, to illustrate program capabilities.

LinePlot is full featured. Program registration disables a contrasting watermark on printed and metafile output.

Program registration fee is $25. On-line registration through the OS2 Shareware BBS or CompuServe (GO SWREG, id: 6753) is available. You can also find it at the following sites:

OS/2 Shareware BBS, at 703-242-4482, via telnet at `bbs.os2bbs.com`, or `www.os2bbs.com`. On-line registration available with major credit card.

You can also find it at `hobbes.nmsu.edu` (with a final destination in `/pub/os2/apps/graphics/plot`) and `cdrom.com` (probable final placement in `/pub/os2/graphics`).

Contact George Nelson at Neighborhood Business Services, `nbs@tomco.net` or `www.tomco.net/~nbs`.

RemindMe 1.03

RemindMe is a full-featured and flexible calendar and scheduling application for OS/2 2.x and Warp. View the months of the year and any scheduled events quickly and easily. Simply gliding the cursor over a day on the calendar will present you with a synopsis of all the events scheduled for that day. Editing any of the events for a given date only involves a double click.

RemindMe also comes with an intelligent To-Do list. The To-Do list looks ahead and reminds you of upcoming items you've scheduled. You can choose to be reminded of upcoming events well before they are actually due (and without having to sift through the many days and events of a calendar). These items are presented in a second, strictly optional window that you can place and size totally independent of the calendar. Also included is an event reminder that provides an additional (optional) visual and/or audio reminder as events come closer to their scheduled due date.

Above all else, RemindMe is easy to use and very flexible. Fonts and colors can be set to your preference. Preview areas show you what your changes will look like before they are made. The program can be adjusted to any size, or simply sit on your desktop and remain small and out of the way. This program is also much smaller and faster than IBM's calendar/PIM application.

RemindMe is shareware; it costs $10 if you find it useful. Contact the author at `eaw@cs.purdue.edu`, or download it from the OS/2 Shareware BBS, `http://ftp-os2.cdrom.com/os2/incoming`, or `ftp://ftp-os2.nmsu.edu/pub/incoming`

ProNews/2 1.0

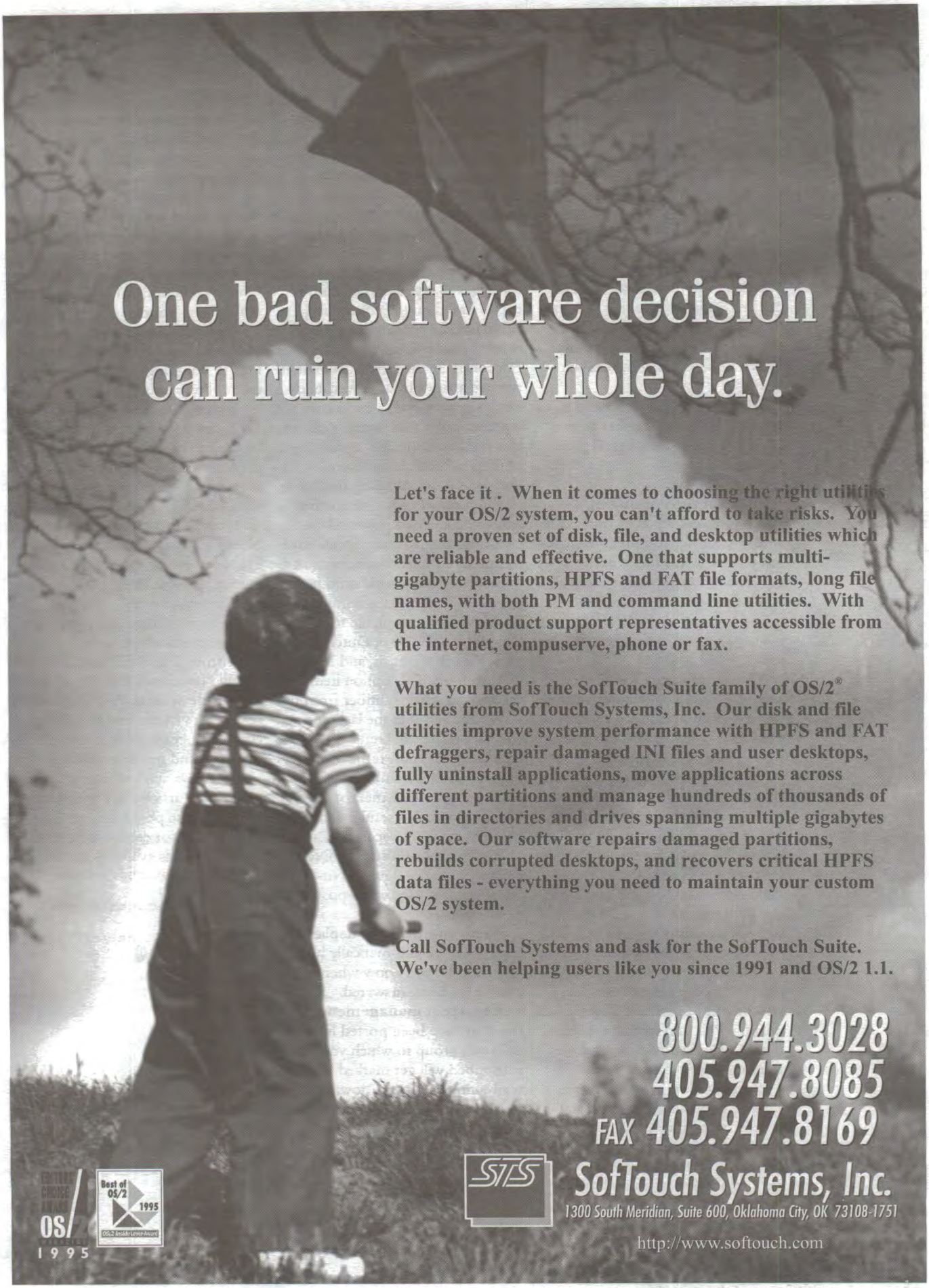
Panacea Software released ProNews/2 1.0, a full featured usenet news reader which offers easy handling of binaries and text groups.

What makes ProNews/2 unique?

Queue Manager: You have complete control over queued tasks. Priorities can be changed, items removed from the queue, or executed out of order. Items can also be saved from one program run to another.

Filtering: The ProNews filter engine allows complex filters to be easily build via its friendly Filter Wizard. Messages that are filtered can be hidden, deleted, highlighted, marked as read, marked as unread, copied to the saved messages folder, decoded, downloaded, or locked.

HotFilters are a special class of filter that can be added as a button on the toolbar. You can create one time filters which are useful for deleting certain classes of messages, toggle filters (useful for creating filters to hide certain articles), addglobal, and addlocal filters (great for making 'kill author' buttons on the toolbar).


One bad software decision
can ruin your whole day.
Let's face it . When it comes to choosing the right utilities for your OS/2 system, you can't afford to take risks. You need a proven set of disk, file, and desktop utilities which are reliable and effective. One that supports multi-gigabyte partitions, HPFS and FAT file formats, long file names, with both PM and command line utilities. With qualified product support representatives accessible from the internet, compuserve, phone or fax.
What you need is the SofTouch Suite family of OS/2® utilities from SofTouch Systems, Inc. Our disk and file utilities improve system performance with HPFS and FAT defraggers, repair damaged INI files and user desktops, fully uninstall applications, move applications across different partitions and manage hundreds of thousands of files in directories and drives spanning multiple gigabytes of space. Our software repairs damaged partitions, rebuilds corrupted desktops, and recovers critical HPFS data files - everything you need to maintain your custom OS/2 system.
Call SofTouch Systems and ask for the SofTouch Suite. We've been helping users like you since 1991 and OS/2 1.1.
800.944.3028
405.947.8085
FAX 405.947.8169
STS
SofTouch Systems, Inc.
1300 South Meridian, Suite 600, Oklahoma City, OK 73108-1751
http://www.softouch.com
Best of OS/2 1995
OS/2 1995

Smart Decoding: ProNews will automatically seek out, order, and mass download multi-message binaries. When you select an article and use the decode option, ProNews will report any missing pieces. If none are missing it can download and build the binary.

Support is also included for ROT13 (useful in movie and joke groups, where spoilers are encoded), MIME and UU decoding, and manual decoding.

MIME charset support: Character sets and MIME conversions can be configured globally or locally (helpful if you read news in more than one language); it can be overridden on a message by message basis.

Message threading: Read news as it was intended! Replies to messages fall under the original posts through the use of Panacaea's custom tree control.

Manual subscribing: If you don't want to keep a list of all available newsgroups on their machines but you know the name of the news group, you can subscribe instantly.

Offline reading: The ProNews queue manager and one button reading makes offline newsreading a joy!

Online reading: ProNews can be configured to only grab headers when a group window is opened or manually only, and also can grab messages with a single click.

One key reading: By using the spacebar you can page down though your articles; when the end of the article is reached, you go to the next article. The rules for the next article are user configurable.

Customizable toolbars: Place any item a menu item onto the toolbar. Each newsgroup can have its own customizable toolbar.

Posting: Post your reply to the newsgroup, mail it, or both. Easy attachment of multiple files for posting. Post and mail at the same time. Customizable reply and forward messages.

Sorting: Sort articles by date, subject, composer, retrieved status, unread status, new status, number of lines, and article number. You can set global sort options or use different options for each news group. You can also change sort orders, on the fly, by clicking in the fields of the article trees.

Syntax color reader: Quoted portions of the text display in different colors, as do URLs and email addresses.

Message hotlinks: Click directly on URLs to load them into Netscape, or click on an email address to respond privately.

Messages or groups of messages can be saved to file or to a special 'saved messages' group. Message locking is a great feature if you have messages that you do not want to expire based on the configured rules. Locked articles cannot be deleted until you unlock them. You can configure the article database to remove articles by age, availability on the news server, a maximum amount, or by read status. You can also configure the age/availability options differently for downloaded/not downloaded articles.

Spell checking: The posting window includes a powerful spell checking engine (using SpellGuard technology). This checker acts as a traditional batch checker; no purchase of SpellGuard is required. Dictionaries are available for US English, UK English, Dutch, German, French, Spanish, and Italian.

Catch up: This option item gets the highest article number from the server and sets it as the last message you have retrieved. Getting new article headers will only retrieve headers higher than this number. All articles in the group will be marked as read. This is especially useful when you come home from vacation!

NoSpam handling: ProNews allows you to configure a No-Spam address that is used when posting to newsgroups.

Reply notification: Replies to your posts are automatically highlighted to let you know when your posts have been answered.

Crosspost management: Articles that have been posted in more than one group to which you are subscribed will get marked as read/unread, deleted, downloaded in all groups. You no longer have to read the same article that was crossposted more than once.

Netscape integration: When ProNews launches URLs it uses a currently open copy of Netscape instead of opening one each time.

Thread statistics: You can add a thread statistics field, showing the children and number of unread children that a parent article in a thread contains.

Header download limits: You can specify a maximum number of new headers to download or have a confirmation dialog pop up allowing you to select the exact number if it goes above a user defined amount. Great for checking out the first 50 or so articles in a newsgroup or keeping yourself from downloading tens of thousands of headers in really busy groups!

Custom headers for posts: If you need to add your own X-Headings to outgoing posts ProNews easily allows you to do this.

External editor support: The ProNews posting engine can now be configured to use the editor of your choice for outgoing mail. You no longer have to give up your powerful editor.

User definable confirmations: Nearly all dangerous actions in ProNews can now be given confirmation dialogs. These dialogs can also be turned off.

Post cancelling: You can now remove posts which were sent in error from USENET via this command! Never look like a fool again!

Article search: ProNews can search for articles based on subject, composer, read status, retrieved status, date, and number of lines!

ProNews allows batch printing of multiple articles in a user defined font. It is also possible to turn on or off printing for certain header lines.

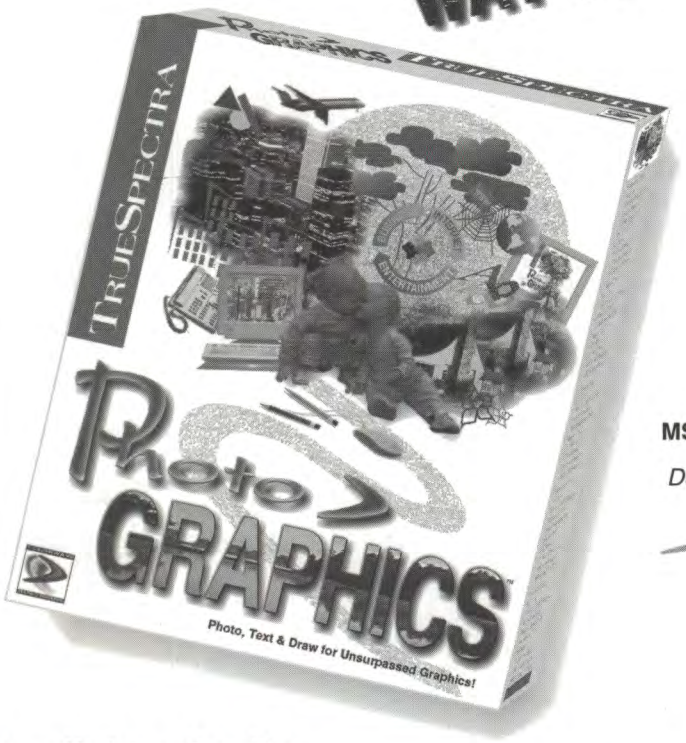
ProNews is available at:

```
www.phonet.com/young
/pn2_100.zip
www.program.com/panacea
/pn2_100.zip
www.aracnet.net/~fireball
/pn2_100.zip
```

Finally... Photo, Text & Draw All in One Application!

Top Producer
WAY TO GO!

TrueSpectra Photo>Graphics allows you to combine photos, drawings and text for unsurpassed graphics! Change the colour of objects; place text on photographs; duplicate or crop images; enhance contrast and brightness or zoom in to highlight the most minute detail on a photograph collage, business presentation or advertising flyer.



- *Loads all common bitmap formats*
- *Exports GIF, BMP, JPG, TIF, etc.*
- *Print colour or B&W*
- *Cut & Paste/Drag & Drop*
- *Edit in full 24-bit colour*
- *Fast 32-bit code*
- *Unlimited effects*
- *Unlimited layers*
- *True transparency for all objects*

MSRP $129.00

Dealers may sell for less

- *Native OS/2 WARP Application*
- *Interactive User Interface*
- *Innovative ColorWave render engine*
- *Full colour Tutorial Guide*
- *Complete On-line documentation*
- *Resolution independence*
- *Unlimited floating point canvas*
- *Requires only a 486 w/ 8MB*
- *...an outstanding value!*

Proudly Distributed by:

MICRO Central
800-83-MICRO
mcsales@microcentral.com
http://www.microcentral.com

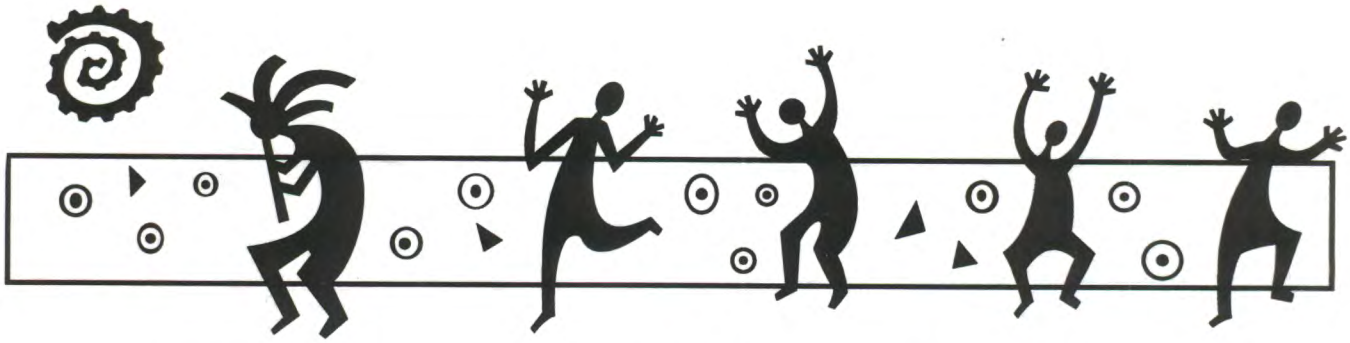
See these and other fine dealers:

Indelible Blue, Inc.
800 776-8284
sales@indelible-blue.com
http://www.indelible-blue.com/ib

J3 Computer Technologies
909 985-6786
sales@os2store.com
http://www.os2store.com

TRUESPECTRA
Sales: 416 224-0076
Fax: 416 224-0309
Email: sales@truespectra.com
Web: http://www.truespectra.com

COLORWAVE™
GRAPHICS RENDERING



The Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc

The Phoenix OS/2 Society is a computer user group dedicated to OS/2. We have been publishing our award-winning magazine, extended attributes since August of 1994, and we have members all over the world.

Yes, this is a user group publication, and that sometimes shows; however, that's also an advantage, since you get real-world feedback about OS/2 and OS/2 products from other users, not just jaded, cynical journalists.

How useful will it be to join the Phoenix OS/2 Society if you aren't in Arizona? We see the Phoenix OS/2 Society as something akin to the National Geographic Society or the Smithsonian; while most members only see a magazine, you're actually a member of a society, and can participate in its activities when you happen to be in the area.

Even without activities that take place in Phoenix, Society membership includes product discounts that alone could make membership worthwhile. Taking advantage of one such discount could easily save you the entire cost of membership, giving you a "free" subscription.

Plus, the Society is prominent in the computing community. We are *already* heard by IBM; they listen to what we say. Several IBM executives get extended attributes. They don't get it for the "club news"—they use it to learn what OS/2 users really care about. And they respond to what they read.

You're not just getting a magazine. You're getting a voice.

If you would like to continue to receive the magazine, fill out the membership card in the center

Invites you to join

Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc
5515 N 7th St, Ste 5-133
Phoenix, AZ 85014-2585

Phoenix OS/2 Society